Homunculus



HIDEO YAMAMOTO

5-6



Homunculus

HIDEO YAMAMOTO

Volume 5



Tobishima Wharf, please.

Taxi: Yamagata

……

ニヤリ

SHHHHHK

So, where ya from, man?

Oh yeah? Whatcha doing at Tobishima Wharf?

Long way from home.

Tokyo.

カコン KNK

Invest-ments?

No way! Like what? Corporate?!

Got some assets to sell. I work in finance.

Choose the currency pair:

Grid currencies: USD EUR

A New Business Model - Faster and More Effective

Banking.

You know a lot about finance?

You seem pretty savvy.

Really? Nice! Well, you sure don't *dress* like a loan shark, at least.

.....

Really? Where?

Sure do! Used to work for a brokerage firm.

Heh heh!

GRIN...

Take a guess.

It was one of the five big ones.

Gee, I don't know.

.....

Yamasan Securities?

Wait. Was it...

トトトト


GNG

so I crawled back home with my tail between my legs. Started drivin' taxis to make a livin'.

Pretty basic story. Company went under, wife left...

But then... why are you driving a cab in Yamagata?

SHHHHHK

Ha ha ha!

How could I still work in *Tokyo*?

Couldn't you have found a job in Tokyo?

Place is *teeming* with people who knew me. Colleagues, kids I helped train...

How much do you make driving?

YAMAGATA

508

ADE TAXI

018

.....

Heh. Basically nothing.

Yamagata Taxi

Gives me some money every month. I get by thanks to that.

My son, luckily, happened to get a job 'round here.

W-well, at least you've got a loving--

'Course, I can't live the same lifestyle I used to...

but I make do, I guess.

If only my company hadn't gone under.

I could've gotten him a job at that place, y'know? That's what dads are *for*.

My parents won't even talk to me at home.

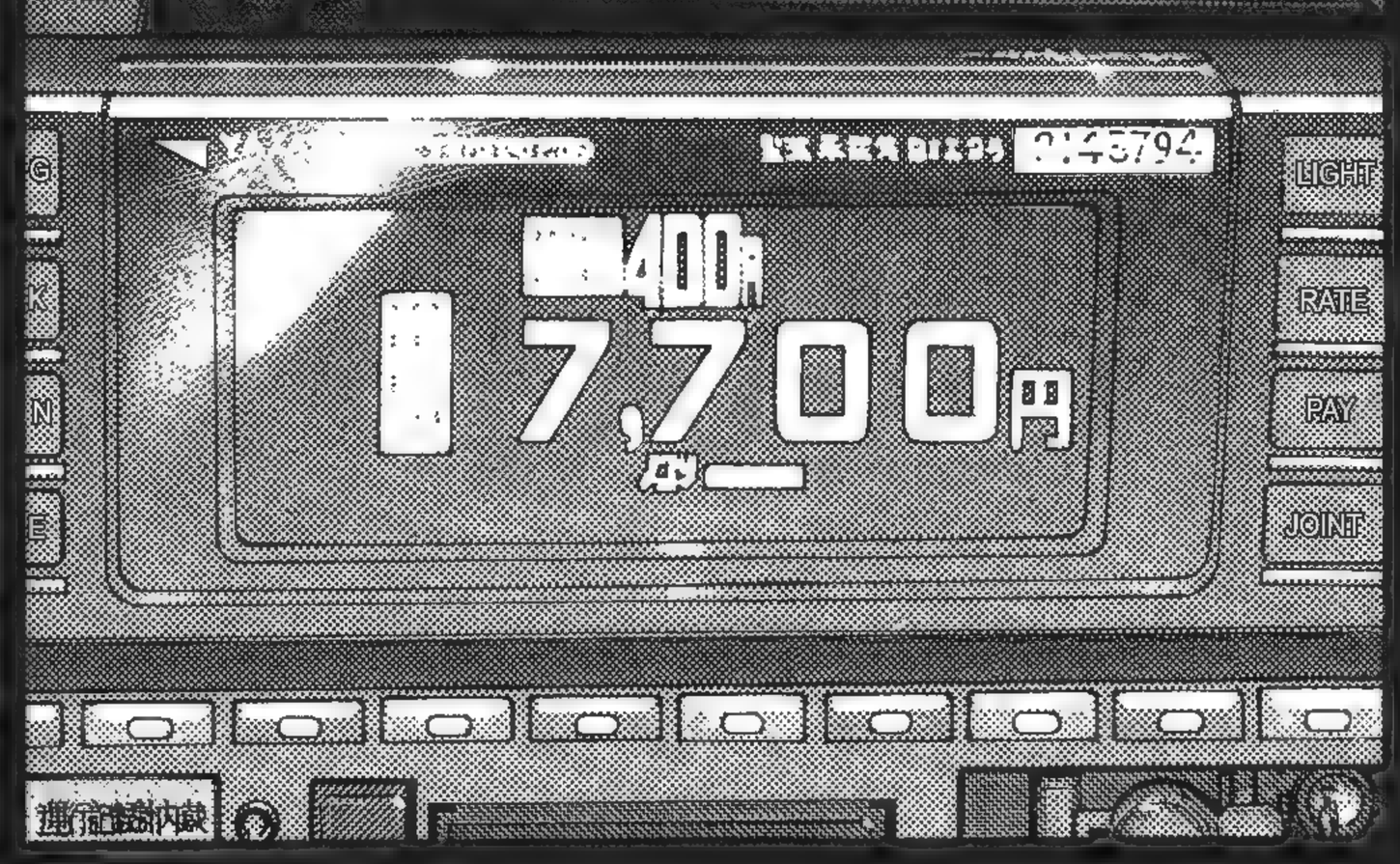
Hell, even my own son... He just doesn't respect me at all anymore.

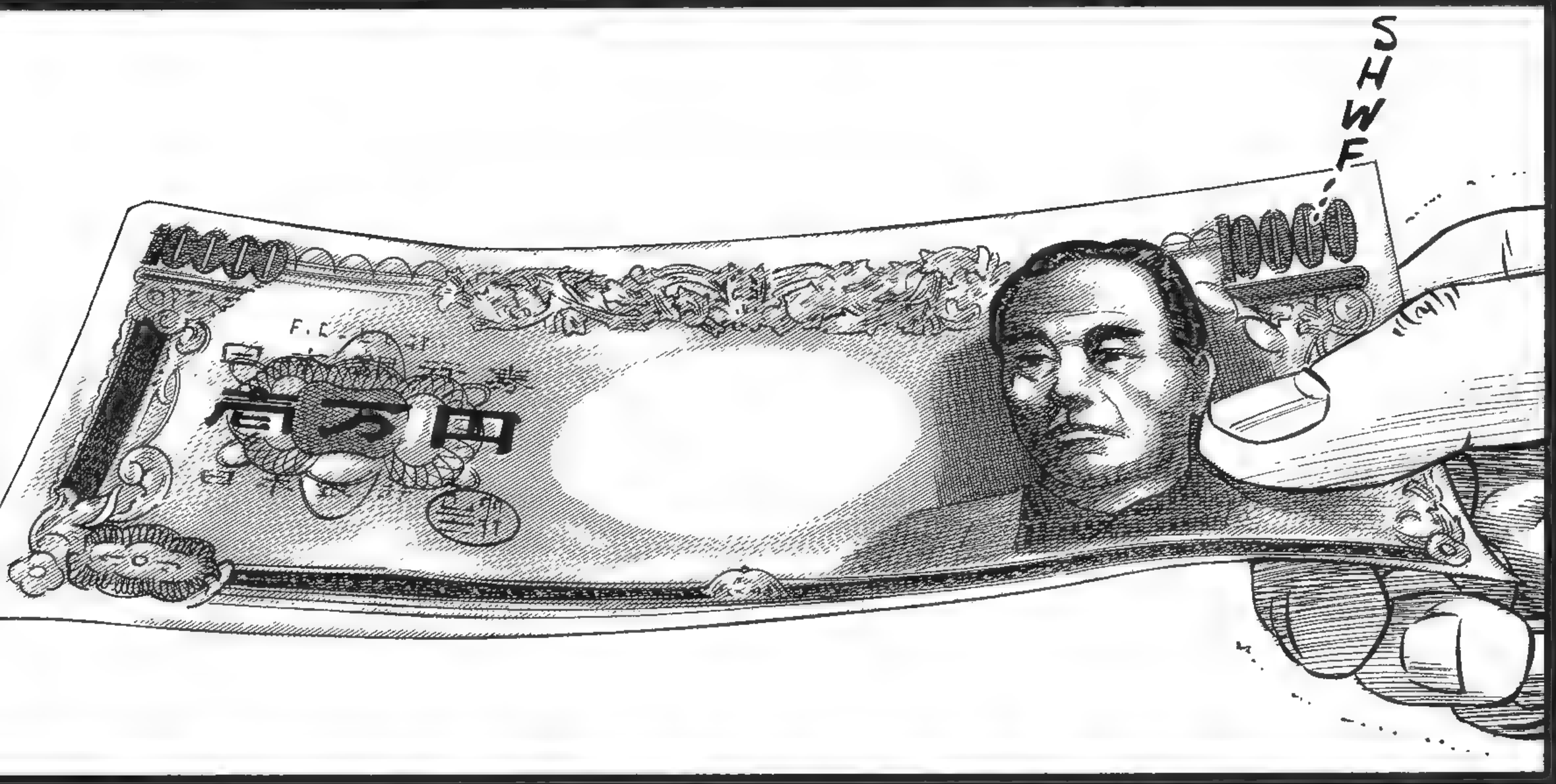
I think that's the worst part.

.....

SKRII
...

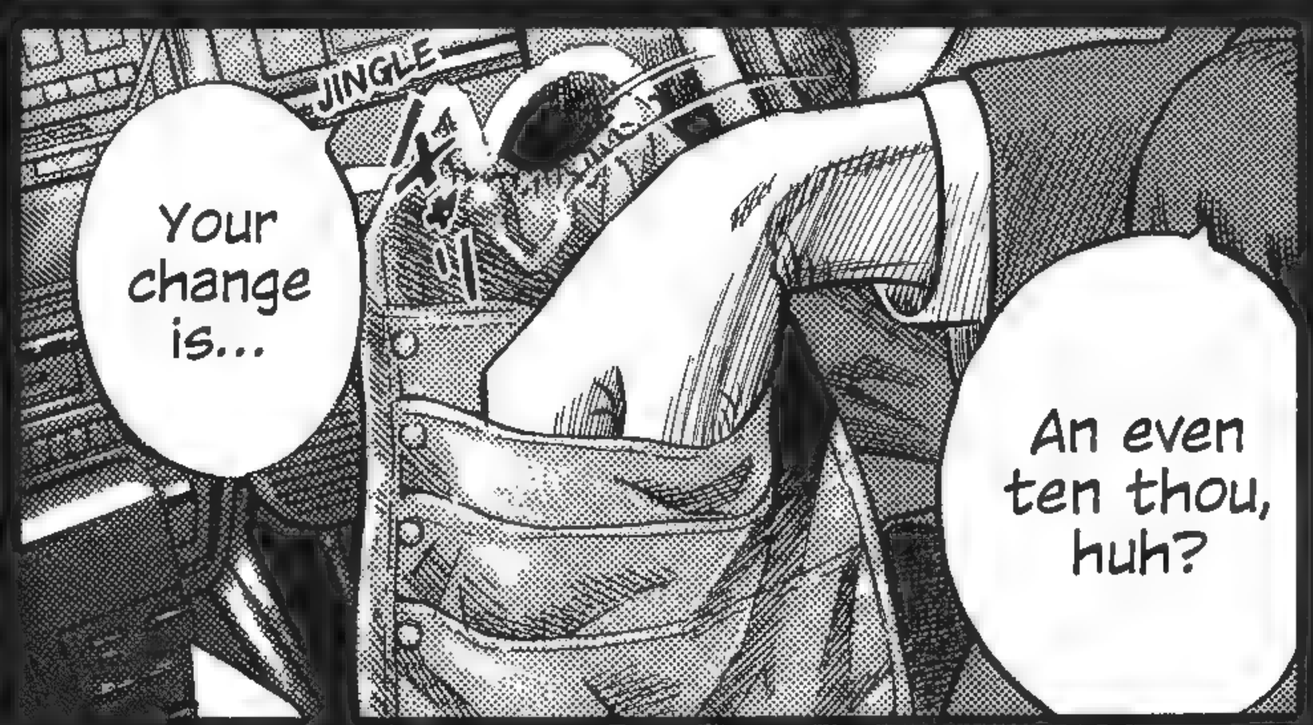
That'll be 7,700 yen.





Oh!

Your change is...



An even ten thou, huh?

Please, keep it!

N... no!

SQUEEZE

ギュッ

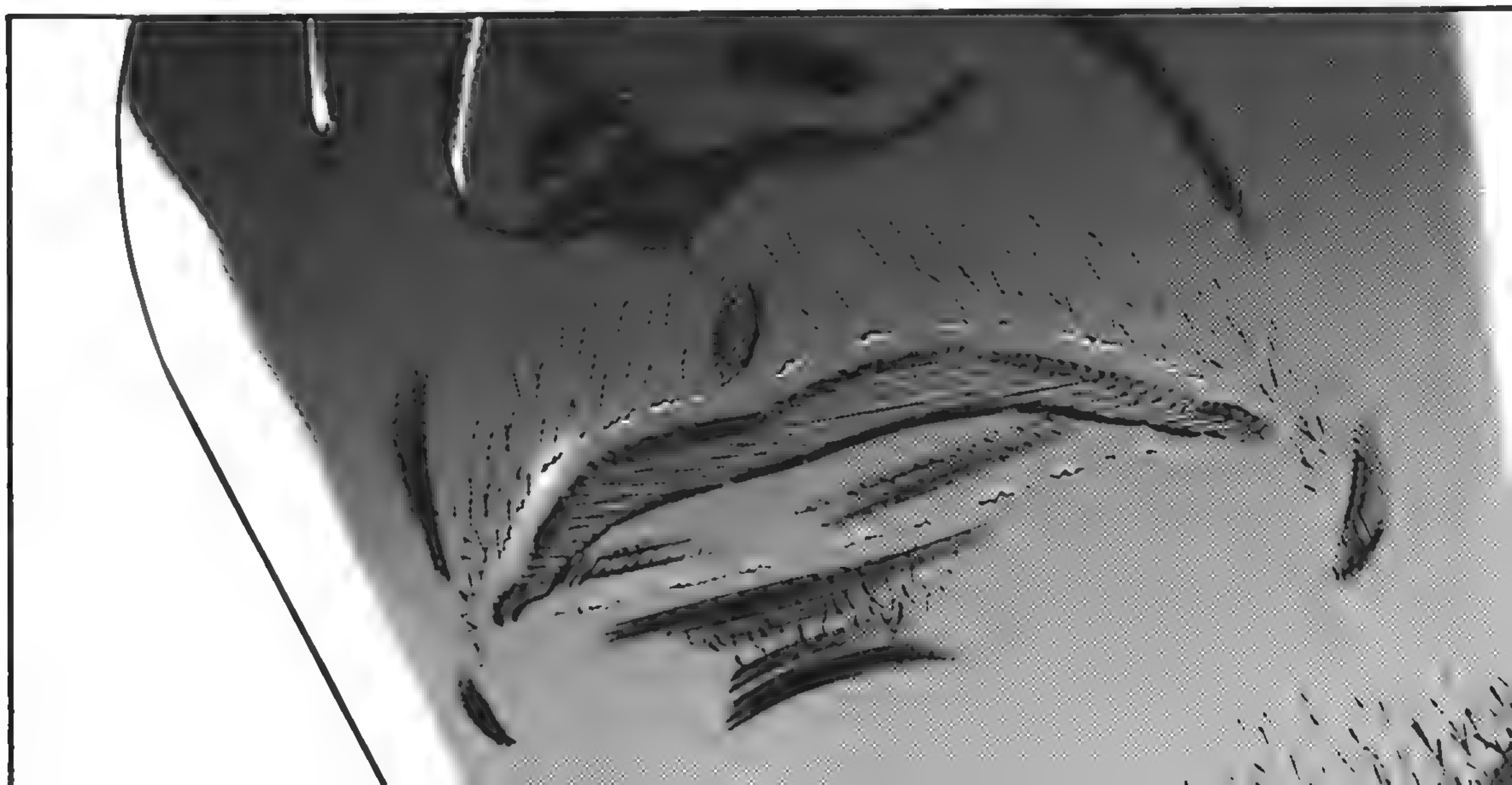
Well, gee...

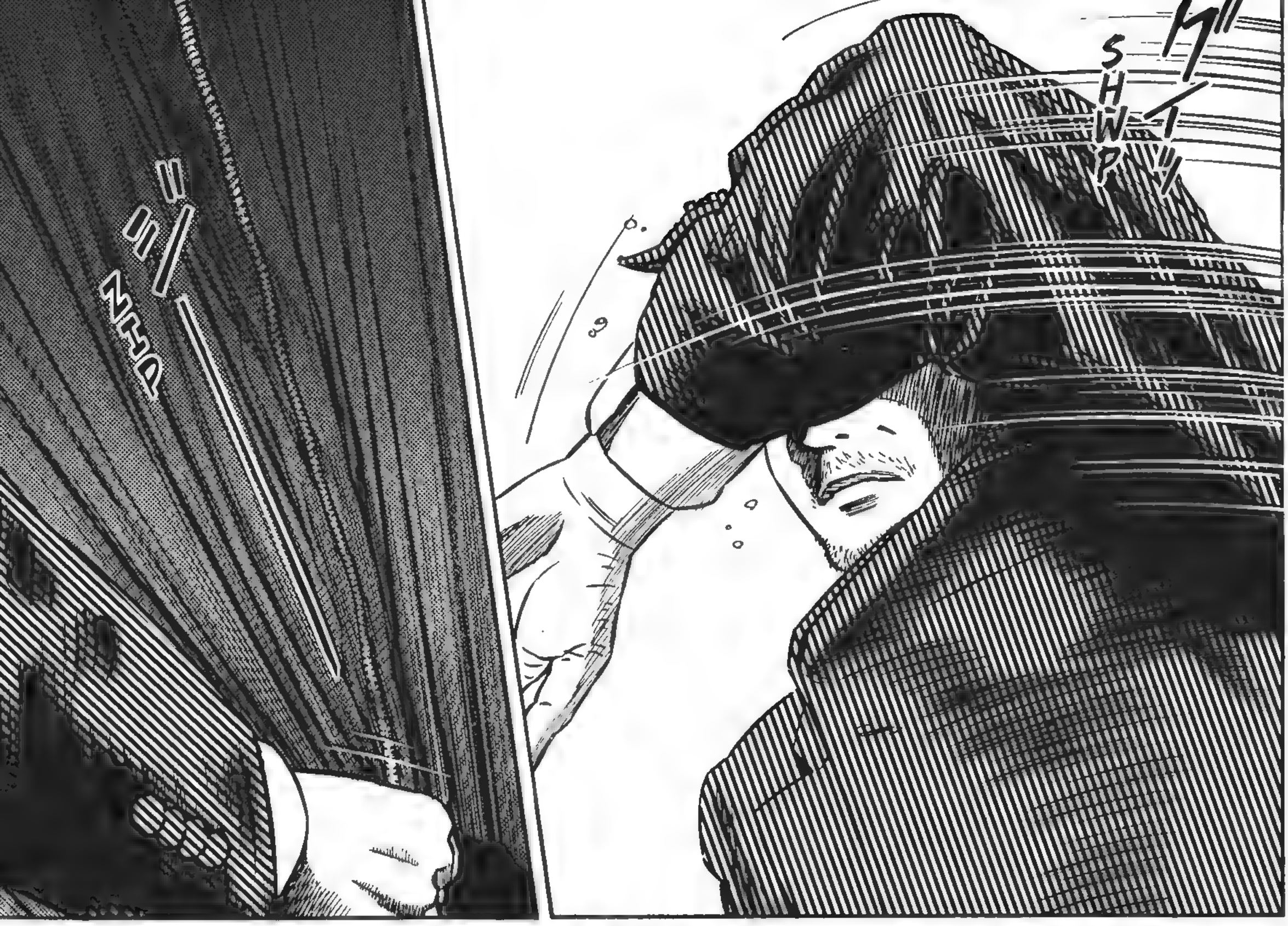
Thanks, bud!



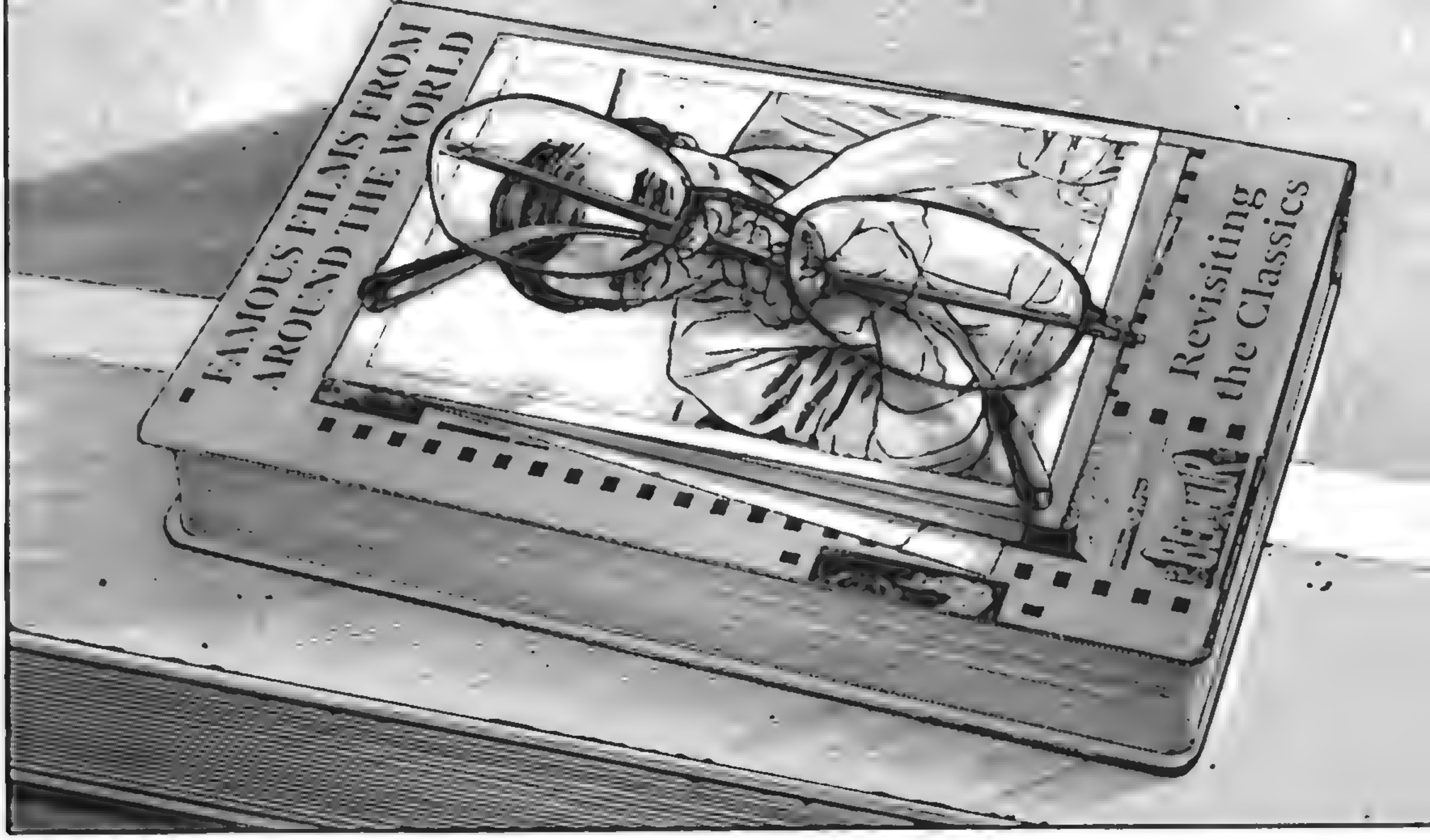




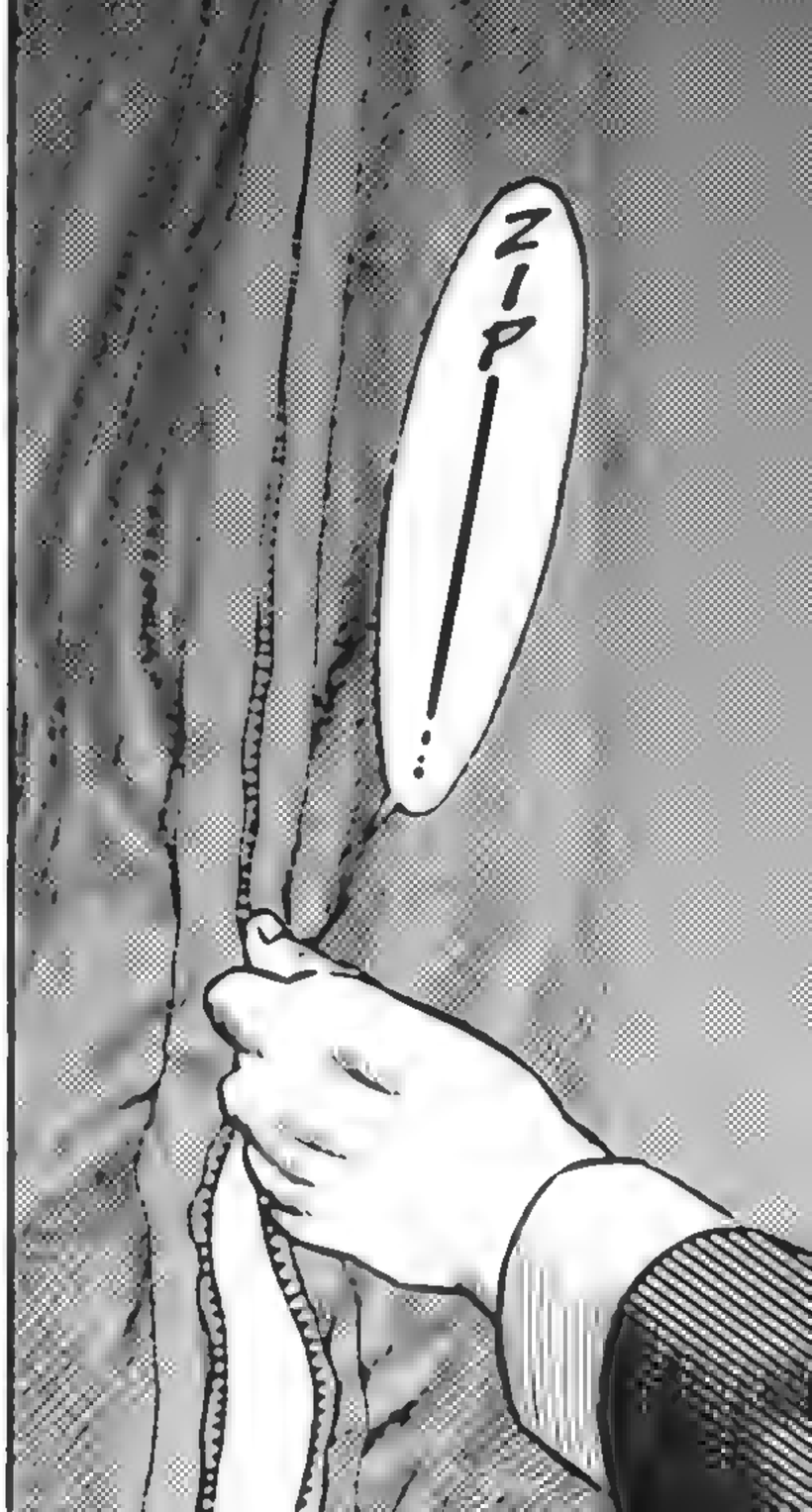



SHWP
FWP
FWP
FWP
FWP
FWP
FWP

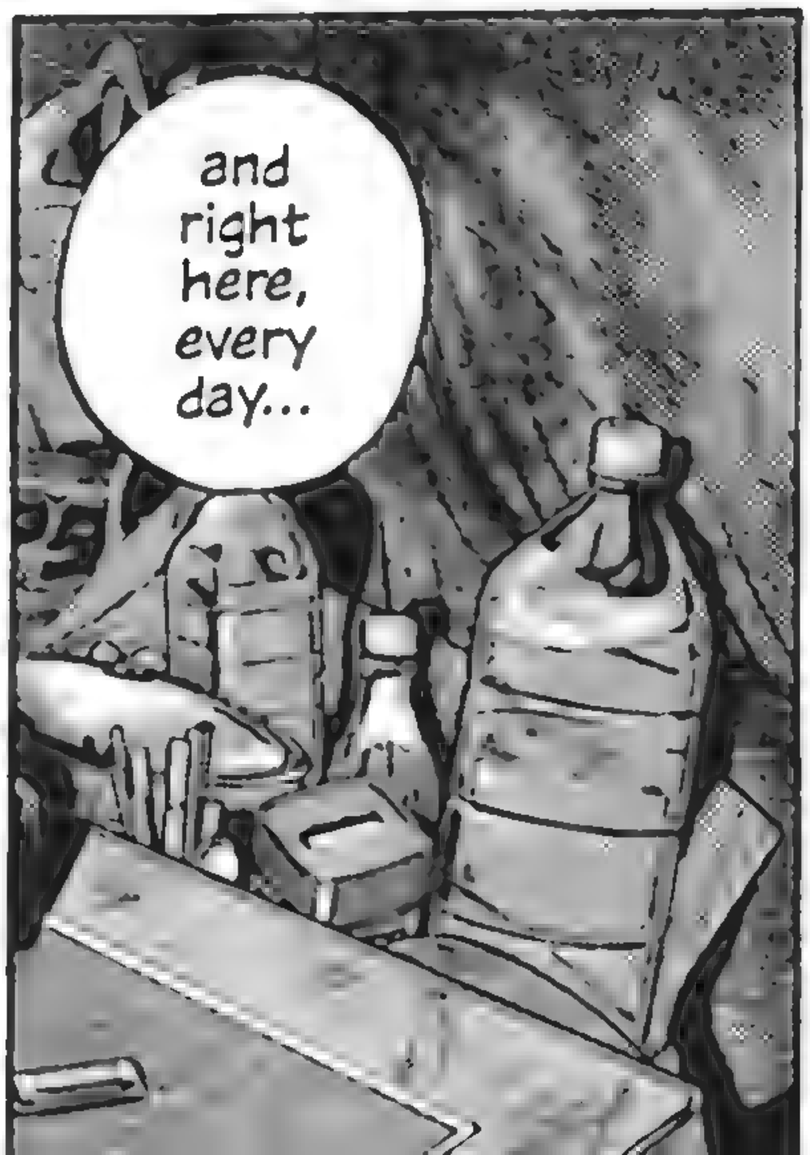

ドガッ
ドガッ
ドガッ
ドガッ
ドガッ


FAMOUS FILMS FROM AROUND THE WORLD
Revisiting the Classics


Even his family ousted him...
so he came back t'Tokyo...


ZIP!


he just slept.


and right here, every day...


ZZZZ…
ZZZZ…
ZZZZ…
ZZZZ…
ZZZZ…
ZZZZ…

MROW

RROW

I SLEPT LIKE A LOG...

AAHMMM...

SKFF...

FWAHMMM

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATTER

CHATRAN!

DON'T MOVE, HONEY!

YAMMER ガヤ

YAMMER ガヤ

YAMMER ガヤ

HNN ...

MMN ...

IT'S OKAY, CHATRAN! YOU'LL BE OKAY! JUST STAY STILL AND LET THE NICE MAN HELP!

MRROW—

MRROW—

S'OKAY, BUD! C'MERE!

OUGH!

SWIPE

HISSS

C'MON...

YOU KNOW YOU CAN'T GET DOWN!

CHATRAN, YOU SILLY KITTY! WHY'D YOU CLIMB SO HIGH?

SORRY, AIN'T MUCH I CAN DO! HE'S TOO SCARED!

HERE, LET ME TAKE A SHOT AT IT.

TROUBLE, MICCHAN?

CAR GUY! IT'S CHATRAN ...

OH!

.....

CAREFUL, CAR GUY! LI'L FELLER'S PETRIFIED. HE MIGHT LASH OUT.

HUP!

CREAK

IT'S OKAY!

HISS

C'MERE, BUDDY.

LET ME HELP.

MRR

MRROW

THERE! WHOZZA GOOD BOY?!

WHADDA RELIEF!

PHEW~~~

CHATRAN ~~~~~!

AIN'T NUTHIN' T'CRY OVER, MICCHAN!

KEH HEH HEH HEH!

LOOK ATCHA! YOU'RE FILTHY!

DANG, CAR GUY!

OH!

HEY, KEN-SAN!

YEAH?

I'LL TREAT YA.

LET'S HIT UP A BATHHOUSE.

AH, CRAP. AM I?

SCORE! THANKS.




BOSS







CAR GUY!

'SUP, YASU-SAN?

THE COPS! THEY GOTCHER CAR IN ONE OF THEM CHALK THINGS!

COME QUICK !!

ミッ
ミッ
ミッ

HAAH!

HAAH!

HAAH!

HOLY SHIT.

THAT WAS CLOSE.

HAAH!

HAAH!

HAAH!

SKRII

P

RMB

SHOULD BE SAFE HERE.

MN...

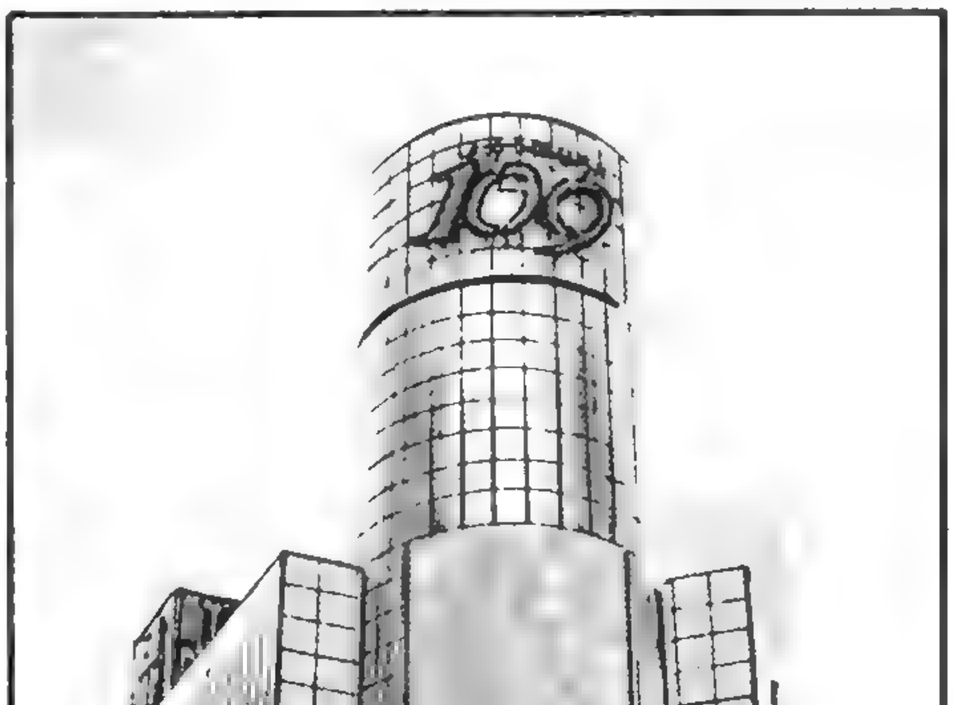
THIS OL' JALOPY FEELS LIKE HOME...

RSLL

PHEW——






100



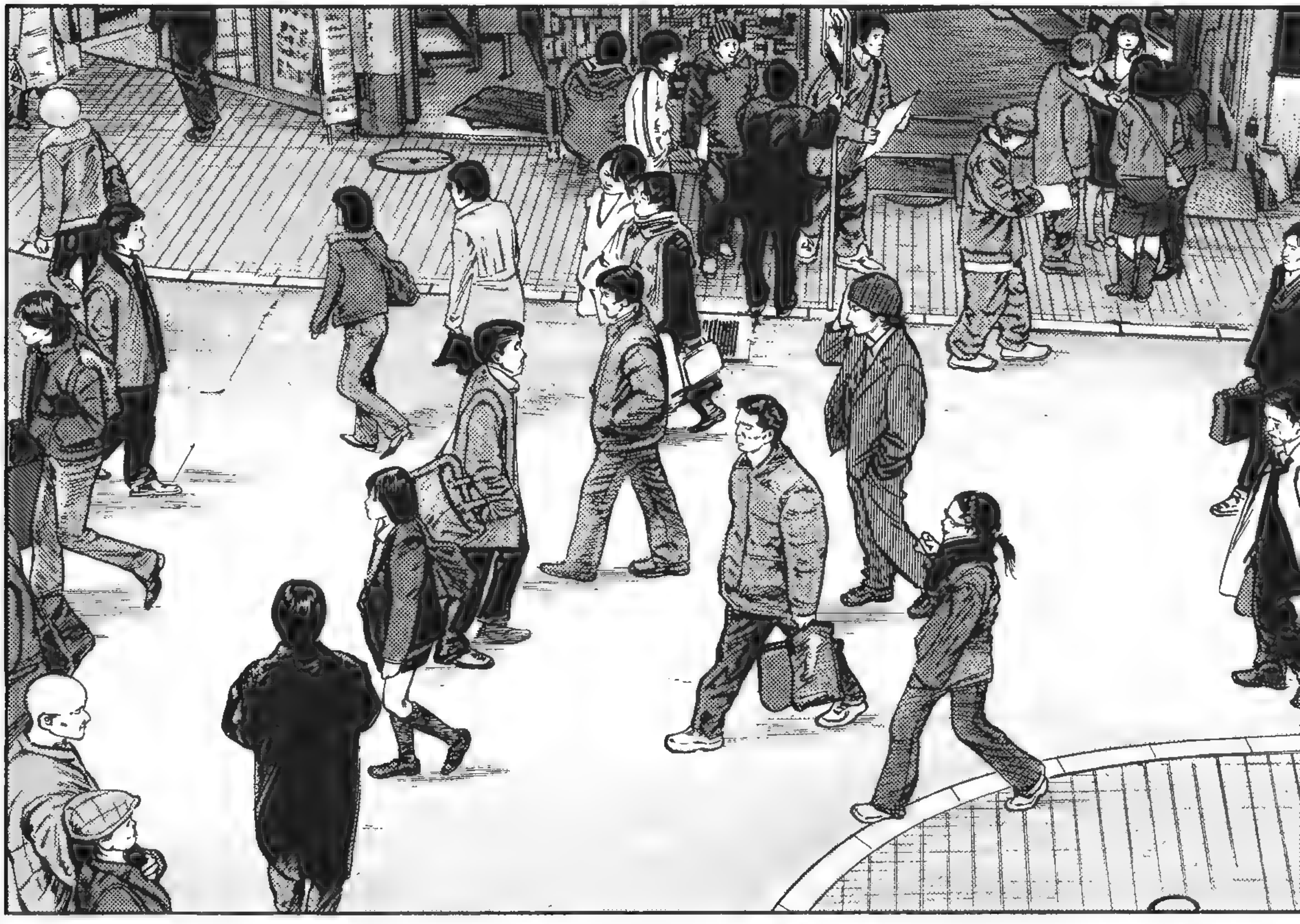

松屋
BODY FOCUS



SHF...


FK
FK
渋谷会館
渋谷センター街
東急三千酒茶 渋谷店
THIS PLACE IS *CRAWLING* WITH THEM.

SHF...







THEY'RE LIKE... MY ALTER EGOS?

I GUESS ...

SO MANY MONSTERS.

LIKE LIVING FUNHOUSE MIRRORS.

STARE...

新モ
しかも
2F

JNGL
JNGL

REFLECTING AND DISTORTING ALL MY FLAWS.

FINE. I'LL TAKE A GOOD, LONG LOOK AT YOU!

!

EXCUSE ME, SIR!

HM ...?

!!!

?

GOT A MINUTE?

?!

OVER HERE!

U-UH...

I GUESS?

WOULD YA MIND FILLING OUT THIS SURVEY REAL QUICK?

.....

REALLY? THANK YOU!!

VWOOM

SHE GOT BIGGER!

.....

ALL YOU GOTTA DO IS FOLLOW ME, ANSWER A FEW EASY QUESTIONS AT A NEARBY BUILDING, AND, JUST LIKE THAT, YOU GET A FREE GIFT CARD! GOOD DEAL, RIGHT?

WOOM WOOM WOOM

DRINKS!

WHAT'S IT ABOUT?

WH...

C'MON! BE A PAL!

DUUN

5F
4F
3F
2F

GAME

激安!!
1プレイ
¥50

新しい
ゲーム
はいかが
!!

B1

GAME
OA

……

1
4

SHYUUU

HM?

ARE YOU SURE?

I SWEAR IT WON'T TAKE LONG!

WHOA!

!!

AT FIRST I THOUGHT HER SIZE WAS A METAPHOR FOR HER CONFIDENCE GROWING AND SHRINKING.

OH, I GET IT.

BUT NOW I SEE...

IT ACTUALLY REPRESENTS HOW CLOSE OR DISTANT SHE FEELS TO ME!

GOTTA GO. SORRY.

SWIP

AMY, COME ON!

!

KLAK

KLAK

KLAK

TWITCH

ピク

ピク

TWITCH

……

SEVEN LEGS?

KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK

WAIT.

NO...

IS SHE... PROUD OF HER SWEET GAMS?

SHE JUST...

HAS SIX HOLES. THAT'S ALL THAT'S GOING ON HERE.

OOPS!

SORRY.

!

BUMP

WHA ...?

WH...

.....?

THIS GUY'S COVERED HEAD TO TOE IN GLASSES!

SQCHZT

!

.....?

IS IT, LIKE...

EVERY PAIR IS DIFFERENT.

IN COLOR, IN SHAPE...

A "ROSE-COLORED GLASSES" THING? HE'S BIASED?

!!

GLARE

WH...

WHAT'RE YOU LOOKIN' AT? NEVER SEEN A COUNTRY MAN B'FER?

IT'S "DON'T YOU DARE LOOK AT **ME** WITH COLORED LENSES"...

I HAD IT BACK-WARDS.

AH. I SEE.

PHEW……

……

!

SORRY, MAN.

FWSH

!

Sign: Buttered popcorn, new flavor!

SHE.

BLUS

SHE'S... TRASHY?

FWSH

ガミガミ

250

BWSH

I GET IT!

OH!



MAKING A BIG SHOW FOR ATTENTION.

SHE'S A BLOW-HARD.

THE TRASH IS JUST THERE 'CAUSE THE WIND'S KICKING IT UP.



A BIRD?

SO HE WANTS TO FLY?

!

HE WANTS A FIRM GRIP.

NO.

CLOUDS?

!

LIKE A MIST?

OR, LIKE... SHAD-OWS?

HE JUST WANTS TO BE TALLER!

OH!

!

A TERRIBLE LISTENER.

.....

WHAT'S *WITH* THESE GUYS?

.....

SOME OF THEM ARE OBVIOUS, BUT OTHERS...

I HAVE NO CLUE WHAT TO MAKE OF IT!!

GAME

プリクラのメリカ

!

……

?!

A... GIRAFFE?

!

SHWF

OH, STOP!

MAYBE SHE HATES BREATHING OTHER PEOPLE'S AIR...?

DOES HIS... BREATH STINK?

WHY A GIRAFFE, SPECIFI-CALLY?

BUT...

AND THIS GUY'S COMPLETELY BLACKED OUT...

HM?

.....

!!!

WHOA !!

WH...

?

WHOA!!

!

EEK!!

ドゴス！

THWUMP

!!!

TUBE ...?

A T...

……

I'M LITERALLY DYING!

TMP TMP TMP

OH MY GOD!

EYAAAH!

WHAT THE HELL WAS THAT?

I DON'T GET IT...

BUT...

PAFF PAFF

……

BUT THE CRAZY ONES, THE ONES I CAN'T SEEM TO FIGURE OUT...

I *SWEAR* THEY SMELL JUST LIKE ME.

!

BLRB...

GLP LUP...

GLP LCD...

FWP

GLUP

.....?

SHE'S... WATER?

NOT QUITE...

NO...

AH!

I SEE IT NOW.

SHE ISN'T MADE OF WATER....

GLURP

SHE'S INSIDE IT!

BEING HERE, IN THIS CITY...

TO THAT WOMAN...

IS LIKE BEING TOTALLY ENGULFED.

SHE LOOKS LIKE...

!

'SUP, NOZOMI.

KOU-CHAN! HI!

I ONLY JUST GOT HERE MYSELF.

NO, NO, IT'S FINE!

DIDN'T MEAN TO KEEP YA WAITING.

SORRY, BABE.

SHF

GLUB GLUB

SHE'S ENGULFED IN A PRIVATE DOME OF WATER...

ゴボボ

GLRBL

ゴボボ

GLRB

TO REPRE-SENT HER SUFFOCAT-ING LIFE.

SO IT'S NOT PHYSICAL.

!

TO ITO.

IN ANY CASE, SHE SURE LOOKS SIMILAR...

GLP LUP...

Call
Function

BIP

4 GHI

PI RO RO RO

PI RO RO RO

HELLO?

HIYA, NAKOSHI-SAN! ♪

YELLO!

"YELLO" MY ASS! WHERE HAVE YOU--

HEY, DON'T YOU--

I'LL BE WAITING FOR YOU AT THE USUAL HOTEL!

FIRST THINGS FIRST! TEA OR SOMETHING, YEAH? THEN WE CAN CHAT! ♬

RIGHT. NOTHING MORE IM-PORTANT THAN--

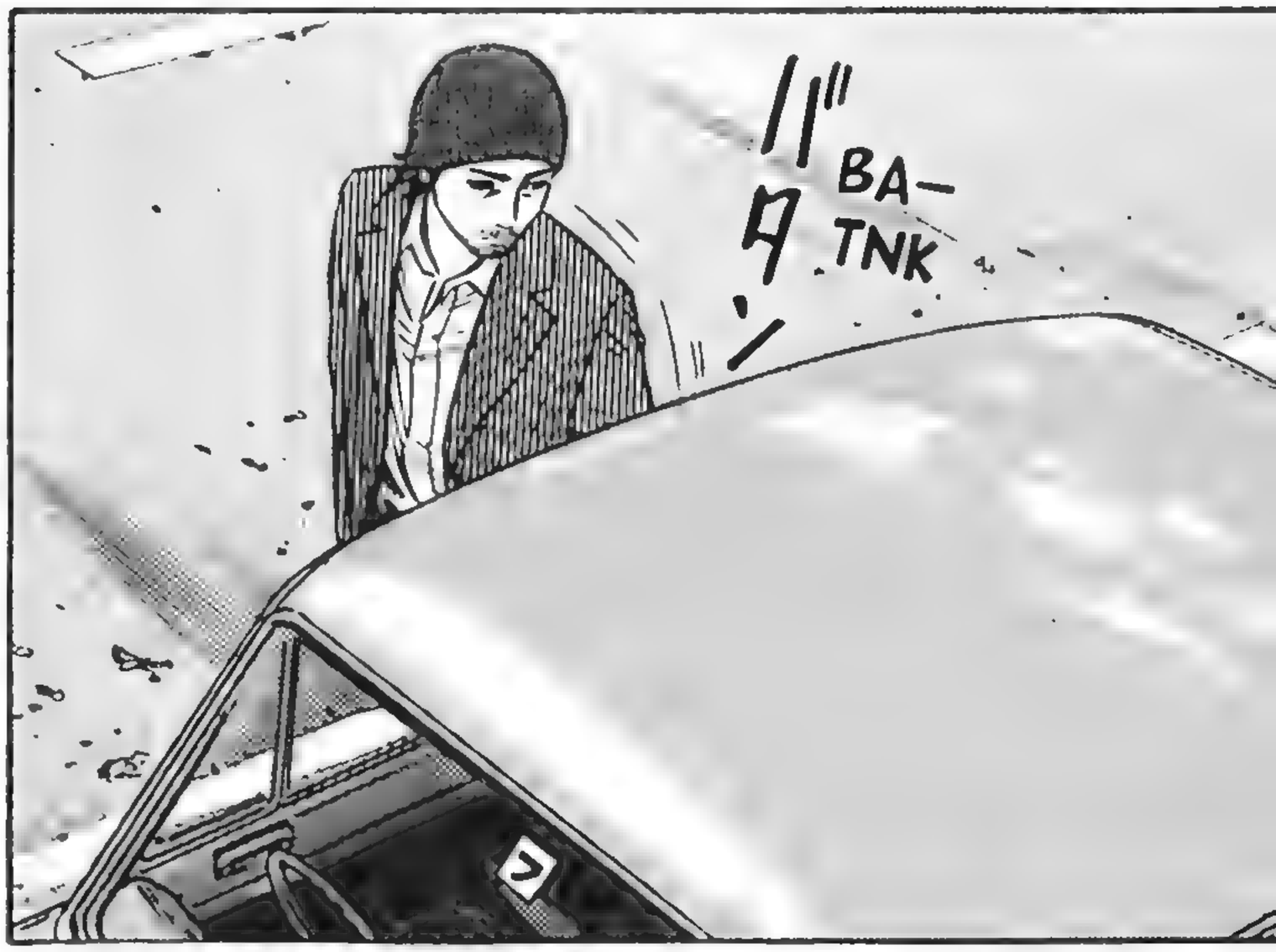
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CLICK

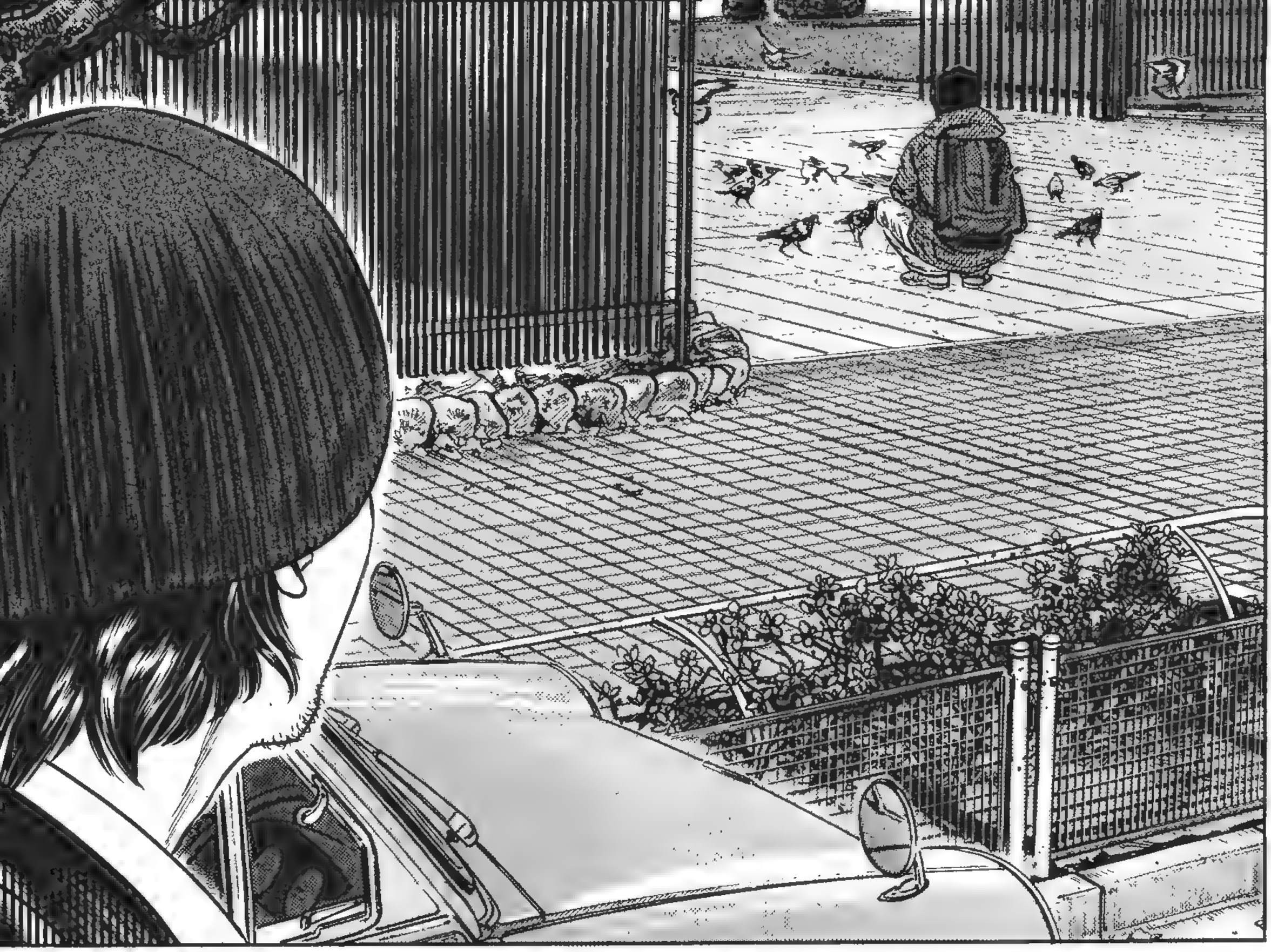
BEEP BEEP


SKRRT!!

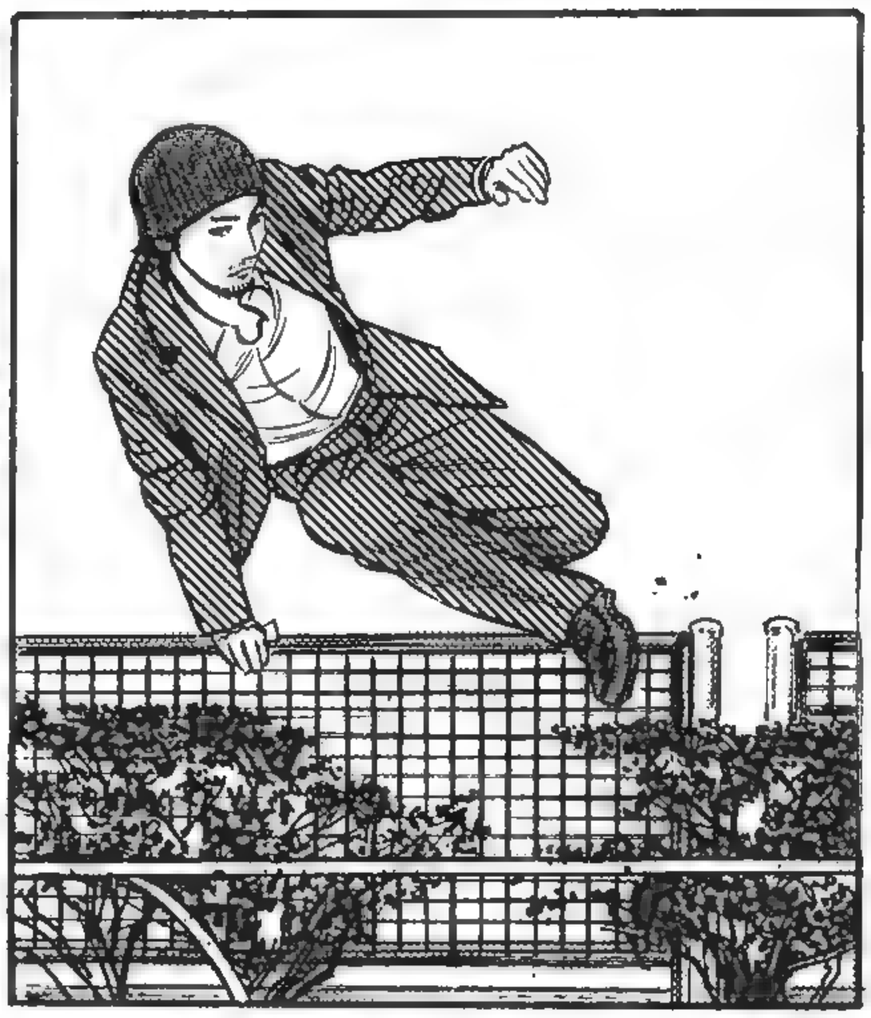



11"
BA-
TNK






TMD



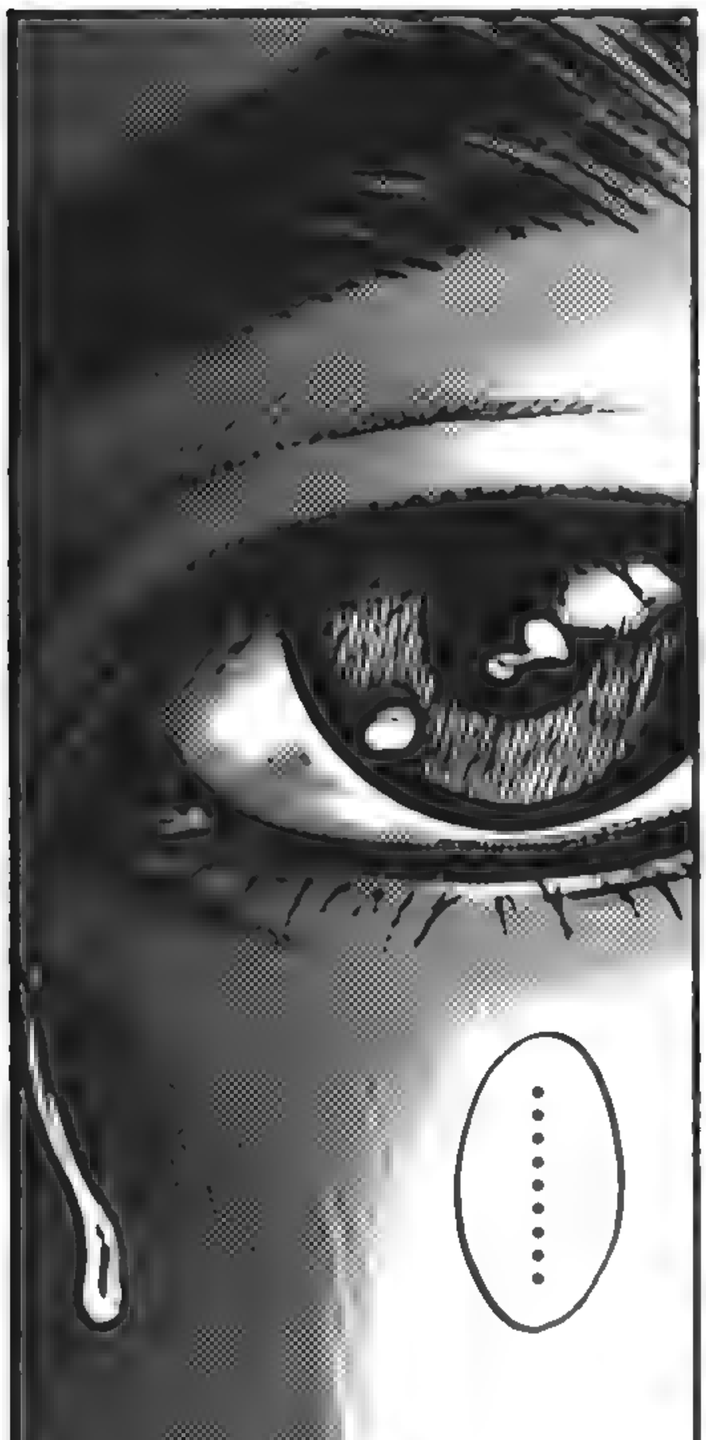

PSP!
PSP! PSP!

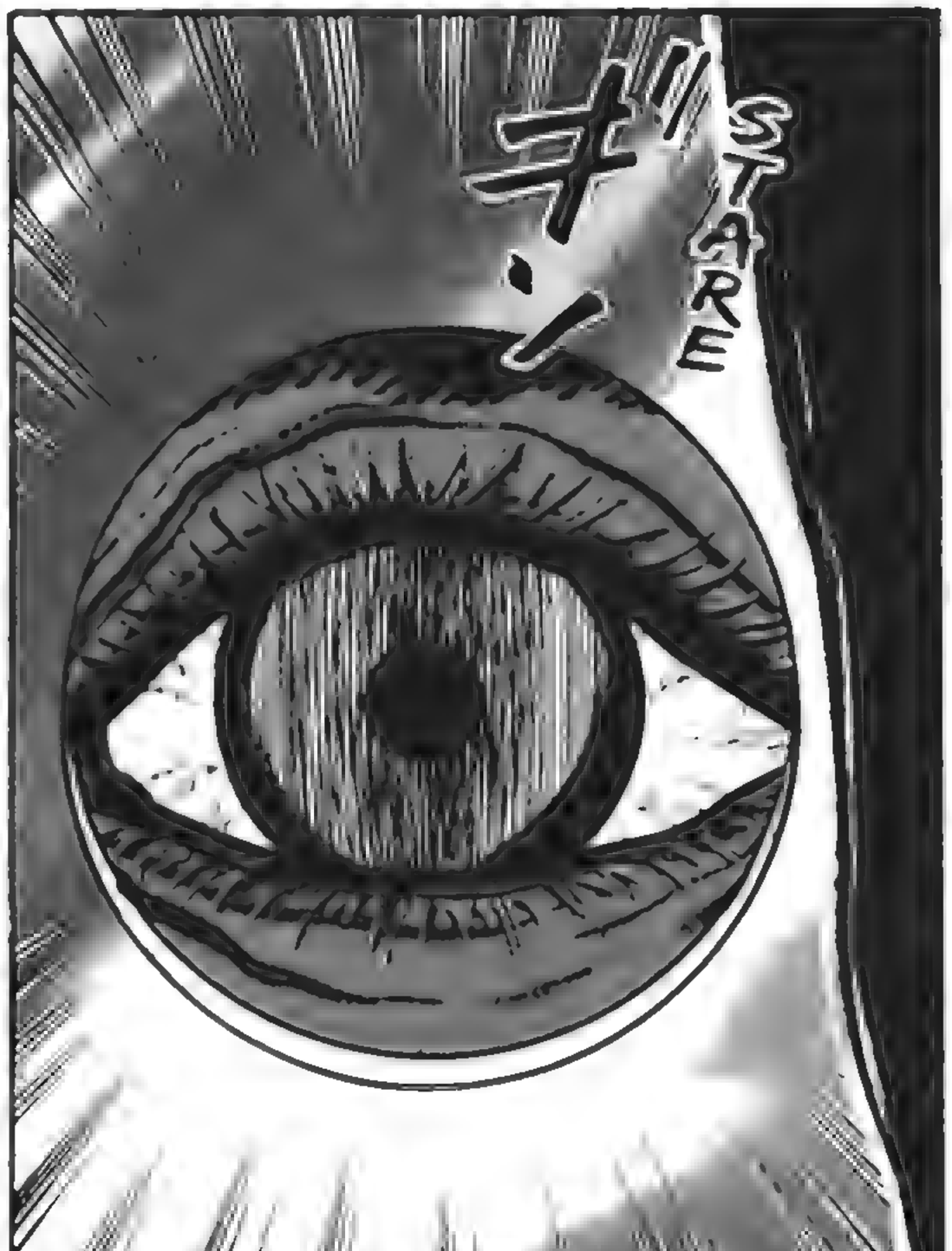

SHF...

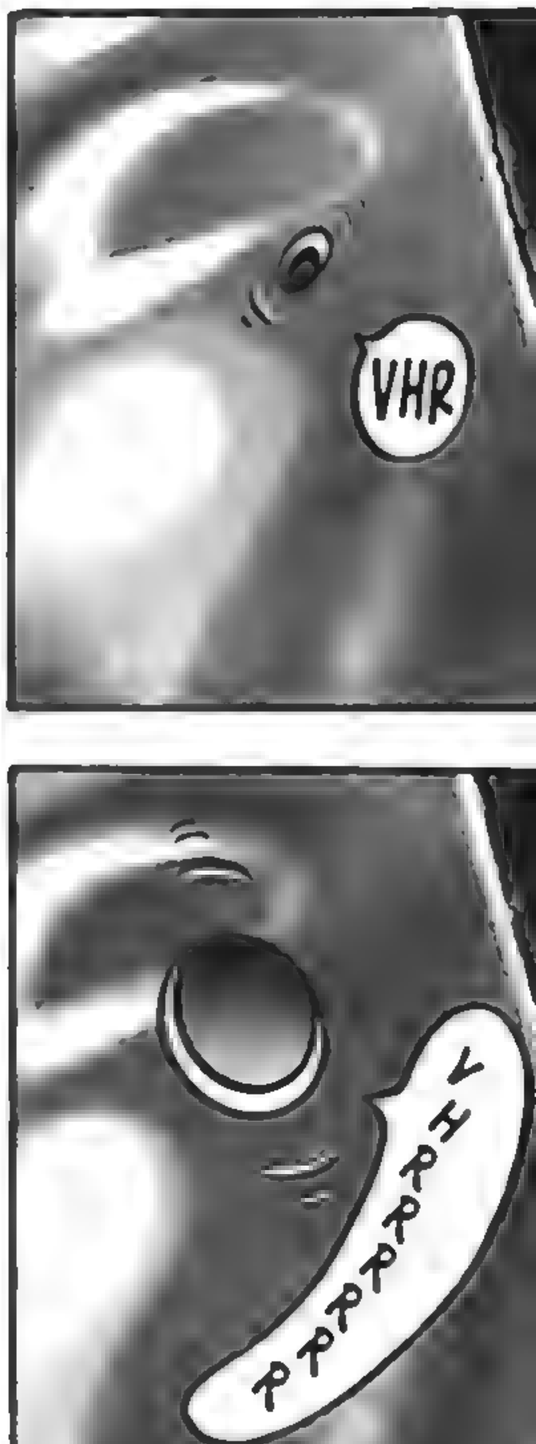











VHR
PPPP

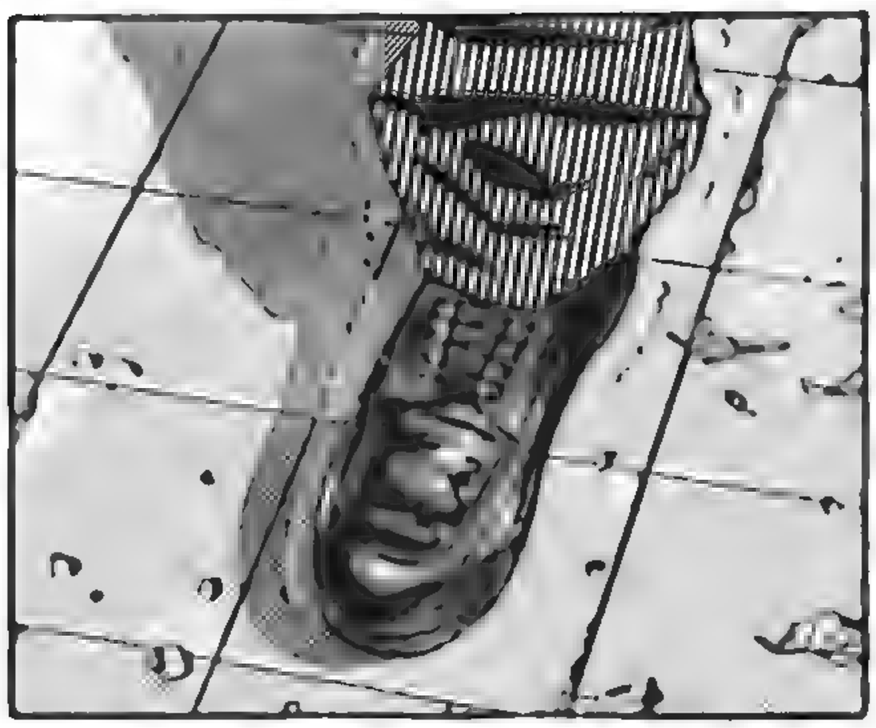
GULP...

GWRRR

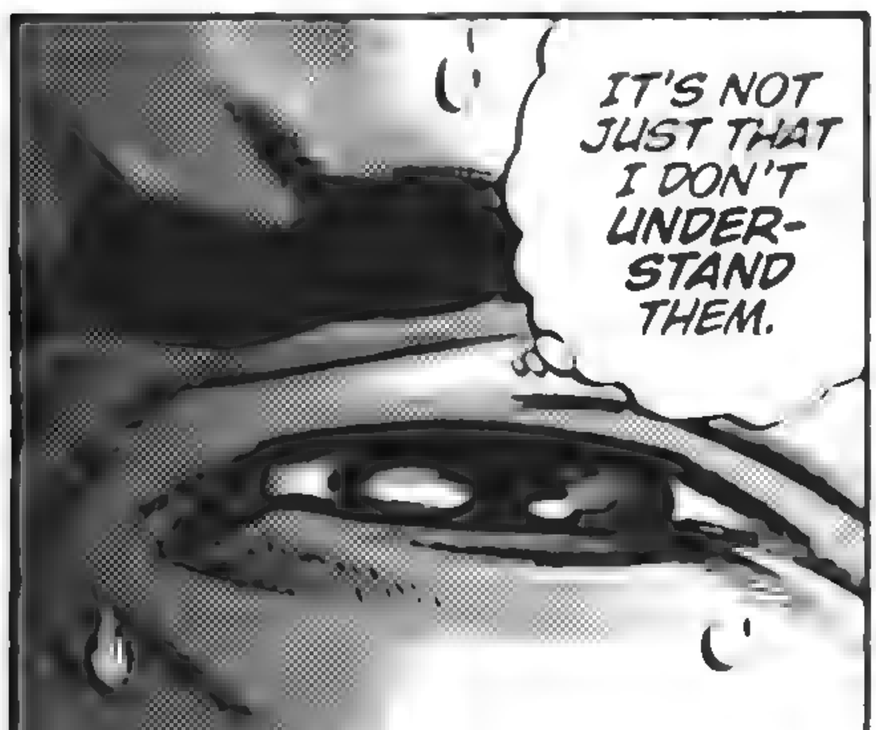
GWRRR

SHIF


I WANT
BULGE
BULGE




!!


IT'S NOT JUST THAT I DON'T UNDER-STAND THEM.

I CAN'T EVEN GET NEAR THEM!

I'M UP

SHWP

PHEW...

HEY, HOW ARE YOU?

GOOD DAY, NAKOSHI-SAN.

41

PCHK...

GRN

AH

!

HER AGAIN...

This is sooo sweet of you!!

THE ONE WITH THE GARDENIA.

I FINALLY GOT MY HANDS ON THAT CHANEL PERFUME YOU WERE AFTER.

GUESS WHAT, RISA-CHAN?

HM?

SHP

YOU DIIID ?!

ピタ…ST…

ARE

THAT'S SOOO NICE OF YOU! ♬

REALLY ?!

キュッ

SQUEEZE

THANKS SO MUCH!!

SQUEEZE

ジ…

STARE

……?

GRRN

"

DING

SHE HAD THAT... SHIFTY CUBE-MONSTER THING GOING ON.

I SAW HER BEFORE.

THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

UNLESS... HUNH.

HER HOMUNCULUS *WAS* KIND OF SIMILAR TO THE SYMBOL-SAND STUFF, WASN'T IT?

STARE

ONCE THE LINK IS BROKEN...

I CAN'T SEE THEM ANYMORE?

MECHANI-CAL.

DIGITAL.

SO THAT MEANS...

SKRI-K

SHAAA

SHAA...







MM-MM!

MM!

SPLORK

HOW'S YOURS, NAKOSHI-SAN?

THE MONT BLANCS HERE ARE *DEEE*-LISH!

OMF!

YOU CAN'T JUST DISAPPEAR ON ME! WHERE'VE YOU BEEN THE PAST TWO DAYS?

LISTEN, YOU.

MN...!

SHO GOOD. ♪

.....

FWUMPH

IT'S BEEN FUN. SEE YA.

?!

IT'S THE OTHER FOUR HUNDRED THOU I PROMISED YOU.

!

.....?

RUSTLE

.....!

I THOUGHT THE EXPERIMENT WAS SUPPOSED TO LAST TEN DAYS.

IT'S ONLY BEEN SEVEN.

FOR THE HOLE IN MY...?

FWP..

YUP.

CREAK キィ

DONE ?!

TOO BAD! WE'RE DONE. ♪

YOU GOT THE SEVEN HUNDRED THOUSAND YOU WERE PROMISED, RIGHT?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, *DONE?*

WE'RE ONLY HALFWAY THROUGH AND YOU'RE THROWING IN THE TOWEL?

.....

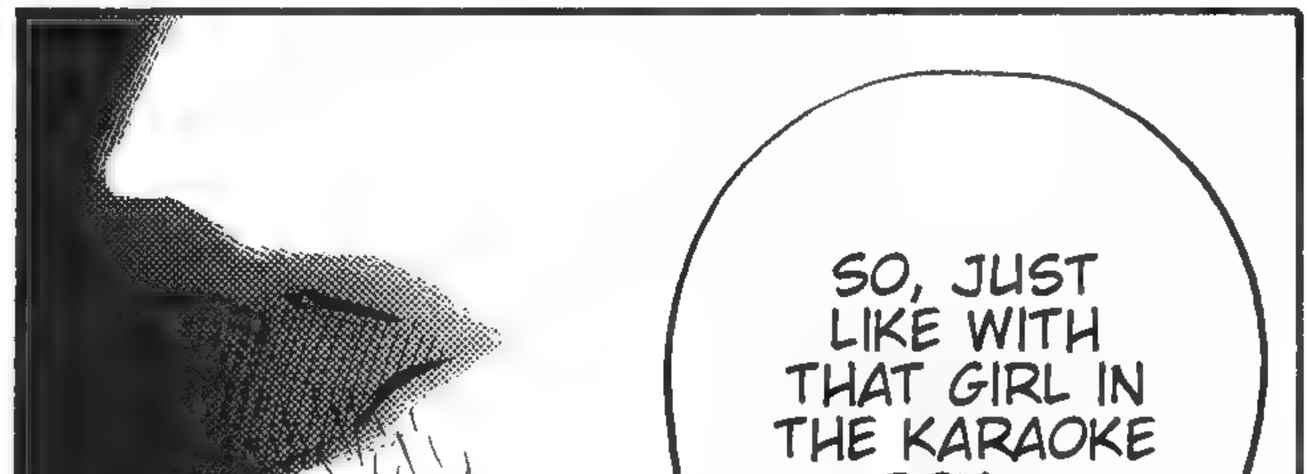
SO THERE'S NO PROBLEM.

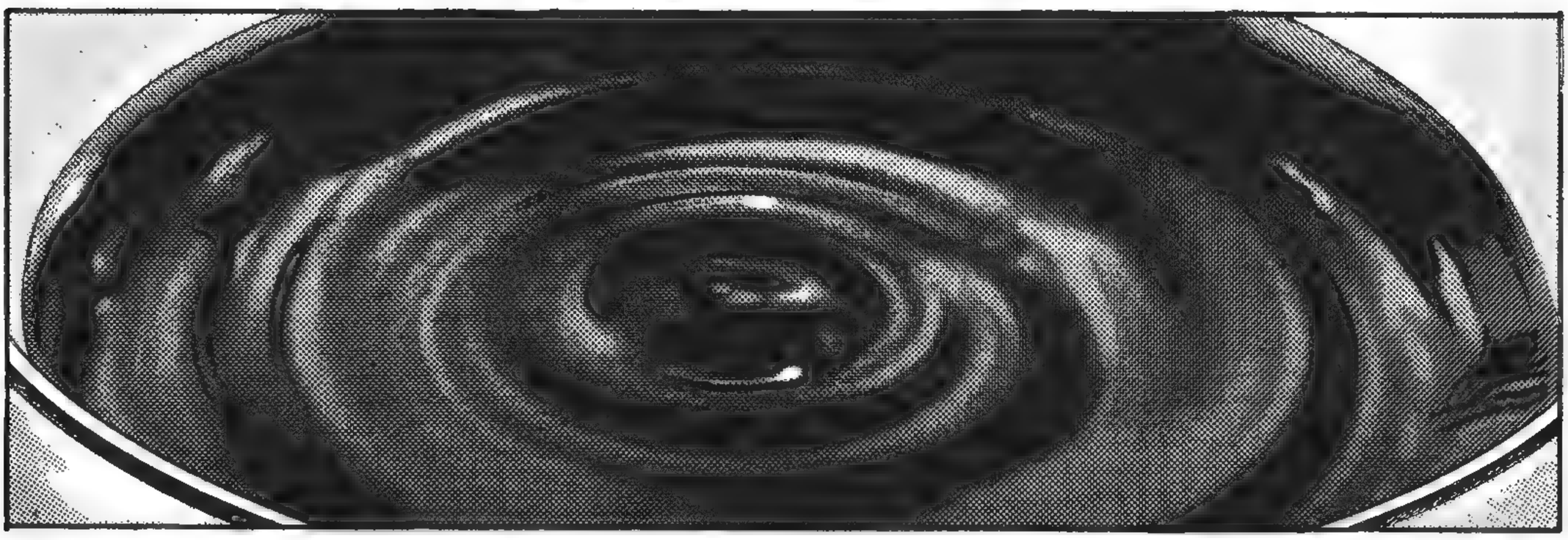
IF ANY-THING, THIS SHOULD BE IN YOUR BEST INTEREST.

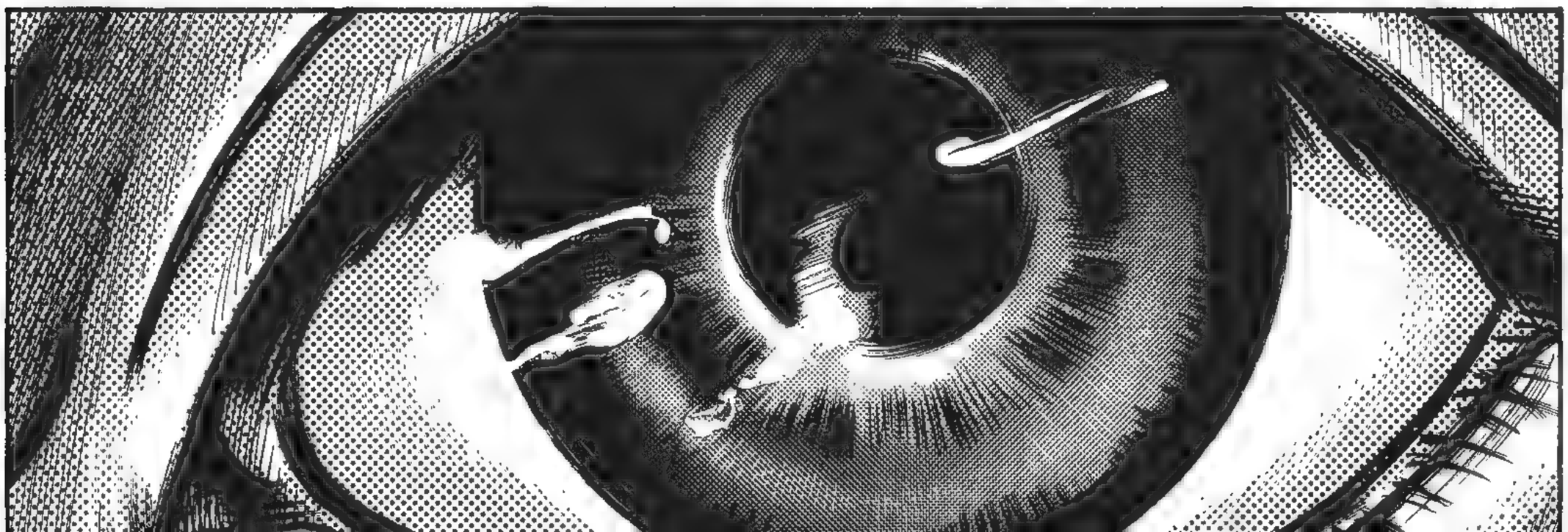
HMPH.


ドイ…
SHP


!
TWITCH...


SO, JUST LIKE WITH THAT GIRL IN THE KARAOKE BOX...
YOU'RE GONNA RUN FROM ME.





BLUP...

I TOLD YOU RIGHT FROM THE START.

OH, NAKOSHI-SAN...

THE WHOLE POINT OF THIS WAS TO DISPROVE THE SUPERNATURAL MYTHS OF TREPANATION.

IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A SERIOUS EXPERIMENT!

.....

AND WHAT DO I DO? I USE IT AS AN EXCUSE TO MAKE A PASS AT A SCHOOLGIRL. I MEAN, I'M A MAN OF SCIENCE! THAT'S JUST EMBARRASSING.

SO...I LEFT.

WHAT?!

JUST HALLUCINA-TIONS.

GRBL

THESE... "HOMUNCULI" I'VE BEEN SEEING?

THEN WHAT ABOUT THESE CRAZY MONSTERS?

BUT NOW, ON THE LAST BITE? I'M TOTALLY OVER IT.

EVEN THIS MONT BLANC... I LOVED IT AT FIRST.

BUT I DO GET BORED QUICK.

I LIVE BY THE PRINCIPLE OF NEVER KNOCKING AN IDEA UNTIL I'VE TESTED IT.

.....

I'M NOT HERE TO WASTE TIME.

REMEMBER, I'M STUDYING HUMANS IN *GENERAL*.

THERE ARE SO MANY FACETS OF HUMANITY TO ANALYZE. I CAN'T GET STUCK HERE.

TRUSTLE

THIS HAS BEEN MY OBSESSION DU JOUR THE PAST TWO DAYS: HYPNOSIS!

VOILÀ!

SOOO, IT WAS A BLAST AND ALL...

BUT YOUR THING'S OVER.

I'LL ADMIT, I DO HAVE SOME INTEREST IN THESE HALLUCINATIONS OF YOURS...

BUT THE STUDY OF PSYCHOSIS IS STILL A WAYS OFF FOR ME, I THINK.

.....!

MUST BE NICE, HAVING THE LEEWAY TO FLAKE OUT THE SECOND SHIT GETS "BORING" FOR YOU.

YOU SLIMY LITTLE RAT.

YOU DRILLED A HOLE IN MY ***SKULL!*** LITTLE AMBITIOUS FOR A CASUAL GAME.

BUT IF YOU WERE GONNA GIVE UP, WHY DO IT AT ALL?

BIG SUBJECT. TREPANATION WAS JUST ONE OF A BILLION LINKS IN THAT CHAIN.

MAN, I FEEL LIKE A BROKEN RECORD! *HA HA!*

I'M STUDYING *HUMANS*, NAKOSHI-SAN.

BUT WHY DID YOU CHOOSE *ME?*

I TOLD YOU THAT ALREADY TOO!

BURBL ...

GLUP

I LIKED THAT. YOUR INDECISIVENESS... YOUR *INCOM-PLETENESS.*

A MAN STUCK HALFWAY BETWEEN THE HOTEL AND THE PARK...

BUT WHY CHOOSE SOMEONE "HALFWAY"?

REALLY JUST MEAN YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND *YOURSELF?*

DOESN'T THAT...

YOU WANT TO UNDERSTAND HUMAN BEINGS.

DUNNO. WHO CARES?

!

BLUBB

.....

BLUB

PLUP

BLRBL

ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY I'M JUST AS HALFWAY AS YOU ARE?

SHUF

...

TELL ME, ITO. WHAT ARE *YOU* STUCK BETWEEN?

……!

?.....

SQUINT

ぉ" BLB

ブ BLB

ブ BLB

ブ BLB

ブ BLB

ブ BLB

?!

PFFFT!

.....?

HEE HEE! HEH HEH HEH!

!

NAKOSHI-SAN...

HAVE YOU HEARD OF THE PLACEBO EFFECT?

THEN YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE POWER OF **SUGGESTION.**

YEAH...

.....!

THAT'S RIGHT. ***PLACEBOS.***

WANNA TAKE A GUESS AT WHAT THIS WHOLE EXERCISE WAS *REALLY* ABOUT?

THAT'S WHAT I WAS *REALLY* TESTING.

V/TING

UNDER THE RIGHT CIRCUMSTANCES, YOU CAN MAKE A HUMAN BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU WANT.

AND YET...

YOU GAINED THESE "POWERS" ANYWAY...

TREPANATION? SERIOUSLY? BORE A HOLE IN A GUY'S SKULL AND HE'LL GET CRAZY POWERS, START SEEING CASPER? YEAH, RIGHT!

THE REST WAS CRAP.

.....

AND YOUR UNSTABLE MIND STARTED SHOWING YOU "HOMUNCULI."

OF *COURSE* NONE OF IT WAS TRUE! WHAT KIND OF IDIOT WOULD BELIEVE SUCH BLATANT PSEUDOSCIENCE?

SO IT'S ALL IN MY HEAD?

.....!

LEMME SPELL IT OUT.

THE ONLY REASON YOU SAW *ANYTHING* WAS BECAUSE I *SUGGESTED YOU MIGHT!*

SNAP

SHP!

JUST ONE TEENY NUDGE...

AND YOU THREW YOURSELF HEADFIRST INTO A HOST OF PSYCHO-SOMATIC SYMPTOMS, JUST LIKE I'D PLANNED.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

THE PERFECT EXPERIMENT, RIGHT?

.....

A WHOLE SPECIES OF GULLIBLE MARKS... THAT'S US.

I GOT WHAT I NEEDED, SO I'M DONE.

IN ANY CASE...

THAT HUMANS ARE SO STUPID, THEY'LL BELIEVE *ANYTHING* GIVEN THE RIGHT STAGECRAFT.

I NOW HAVE PROOF...

YUP.

HMPH. PLACEBO EFFECT, HUH?

?!

IF THAT WERE YOUR GOAL...

YOU'D JUST *PRETEND* TO DRILL IT.

YOU'RE SO FULL OF SHIT.

YOU DRILLED THROUGH MY SKULL! YOU WOULDN'T PERFORM SUCH A HIGH-RISK SURGERY JUST TO STUDY THE PLACEBO EFFECT.

INDEED I WOULD.

AND INDEED... I *DID!*

YOU DON'T *REALLY* BELIEVE THERE'S A HOLE IN YOUR SKULL, DO YOU?

?!

FWP

!!

SHRIP

SHP...

THWIP

TO YOUR FORE-HEAD?

WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED ...

SHP
チュ
ン
BLRCH
SHLP
.....
?!
I ONLY BELIEVE IN THINGS I CAN SEE. SO I *LOOKED.*

I KNOW FOR A *FACT* THAT THIS HOLE IS REAL!

LOOK, WHO CARES WHAT YOU WERE STUDYING? TREPANATION, PLACEBOS, WHATEVER.

.....?

TAP TAP

BUT IF THIS IS REALLY OVER, I HAVE ONE REQUEST.

!

TAKE BACK YOUR MONEY...

AND PLUG UP THIS HOLE.

WELL...

YES, BUT...

.....

IT'D BE SIMPLE. EASIER THAN DRILLING IT IN THE FIRST PLACE, MAYBE.

NOT SHP

YOU WANT OUT? THEN MAKE IT SO I *NEVER* SEE THESE DAMN THINGS AGAIN.

.....!

YOU SEE WHEN YOU LOOK AT ME?

WHAT KIND OF DELUSION ...

FINE. BUT BEFORE WE PART WAYS...

CAN YOU TELL ME...

STARE...

.....

RUSTLE

SKRIT

SKRIT

SKRIT

I NEED PEN AND PAPER.

TP TP TP TP

?……

Robot arm.

Human

Leg made of sand.

……?

YOU MEAN IT'S NOT ME?

TAKE A GUESS WHO *THAT* IS.

HUH?!

NOPE. IT'S ***ME.***

!!

Human

IT'S JUST A REHASH OF OTHER PEOPLE'S HOMUNCULI! THE HIGH SCHOOL GIRL'S SAND, THE GANG LEADER'S ROBOTICS...

WHAT EVEN *IS* THIS THING?

EH HEH ...

EXACTLY.

I HAD THIS ENCOUNTER WITH THE GANG LEADER THAT MADE HIS ROBOT PARTS DISAPPEAR. AFTERWARDS, I REALIZED THEY'D BEEN TRANSFERRED TO MY ARM.

?!

GRIP

SAME THING WITH THE GIRL. WE HAD AN ENCOUNTER, SHE LOST THE SAND, AND THEN...*BAM.* MY OWN LEG WAS MADE OF THE SAME STUFF.

BY THE WAY, THAT "SAND" WAS ACTUALLY THESE TINY, FRAGMENTED SYMBOLS.

.....

I HAVE AN ENCOUNTER WITH A MONSTER...

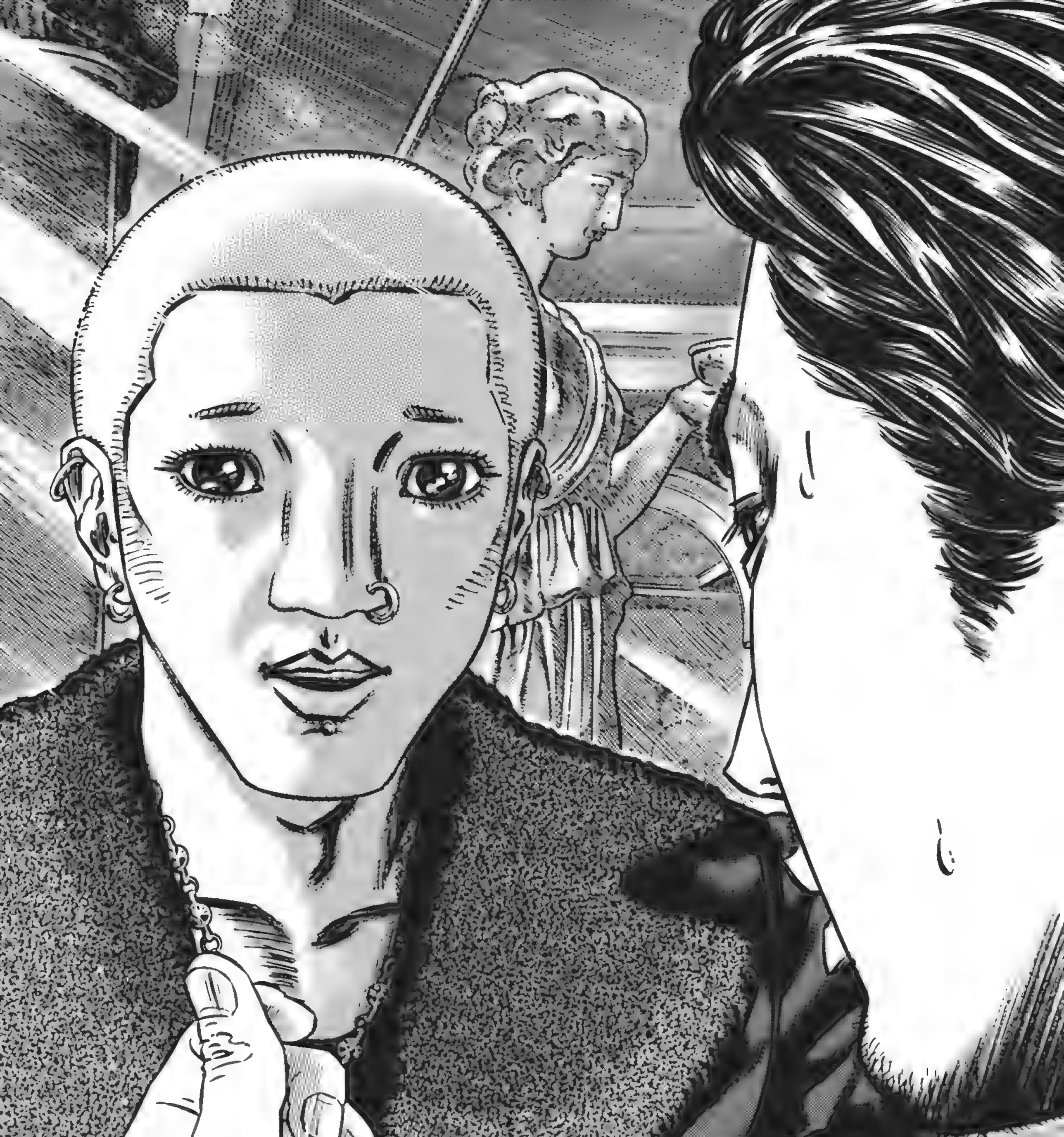
ANYWAY, THAT SEEMS TO BE THE PATTERN.

STARE...

SHAAA...

AND A PART OF THEM TRANSFERS TO MY OWN BODY.

THAT'S THE KIND OF HALLUCINA-TIONS I'M SEEING.



HOW VAGUE.

HA HA!

RUSTLE

Rob

arm

Human

Leg made of sand.

WHAT'D YOU DO TO GET INFECTED BY THEM LIKE THIS?

AN "ENCOUNTER," *HM?* WHAT KIND OF ENCOUNTER?

GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP

SHP

.....?

GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP

HUH?

WELL?

WHAT HAPPENED?

IT'S A SECRET.

.....

WHAT KIND OF "ENCOUNTER" ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

COME ON!

THIS IS SO STUPID.

HA HA HA...

SHWF...

Robot arm.

Left made →

Human

.....

SHP...

PEEK

STARE...

GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP

WHP

GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP

?!

A...

A FISH?

GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP

FLINCH

WHAT'S THAT ABOUT A FISH?

HUNH...

SLIPPY

IT...

LOOKS LIKE...A GUPPY?

HUH?

HOW DID YOU KNOW?

UM... KNOW WHAT?

HOW'D YOU KNOW?

.....?

!

SHIT!

RSTL

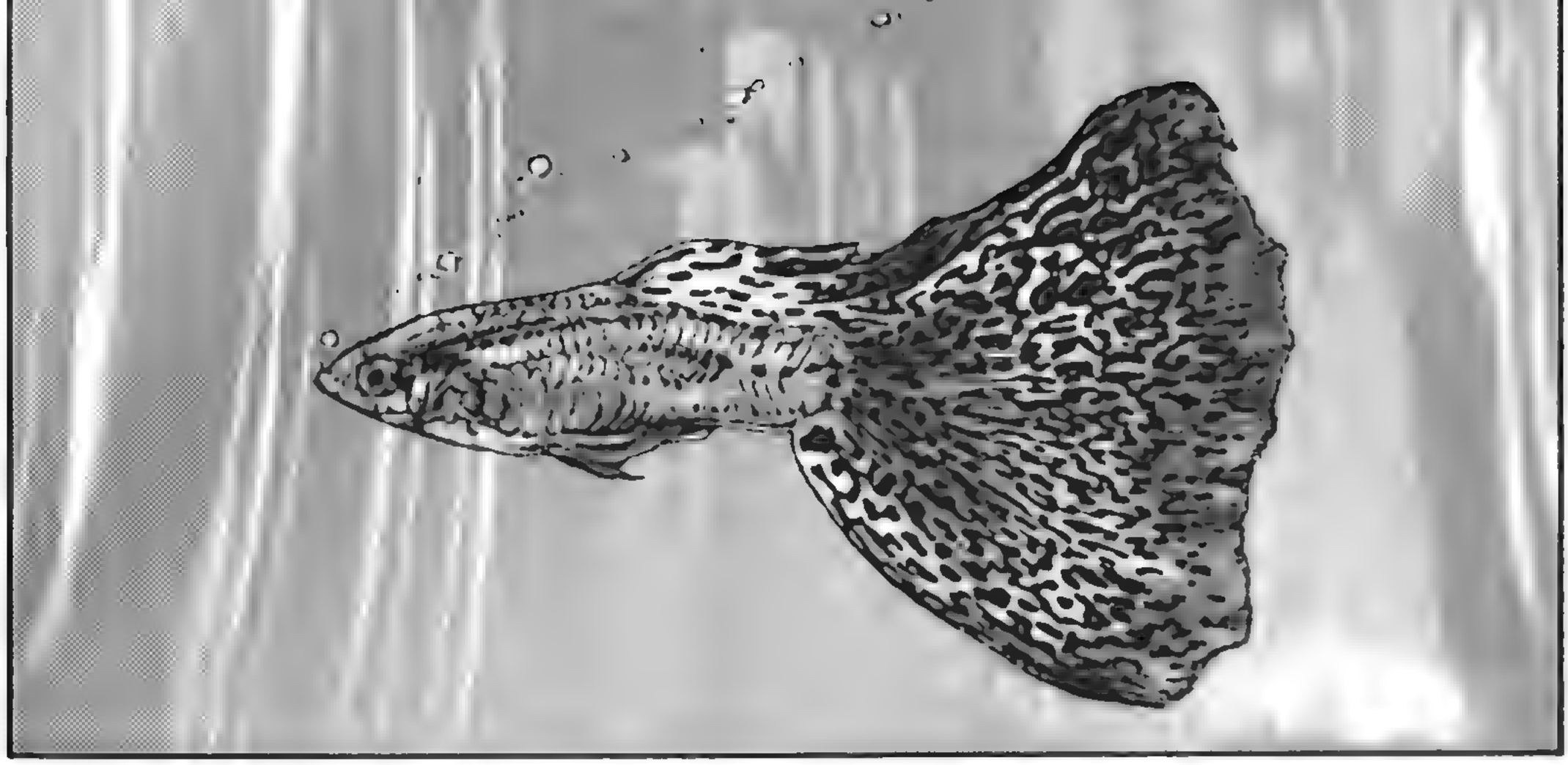
RSTL

HOW'D YOU KNOW I HAD A GUPPY IN MY BAG?

DID YOU SEE ME BUYING IT FROM THE TROPICAL FISH PLACE BEFORE I CAME HERE?

.....

GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP




UH...
Y-YES ...?




SURE, YEAH. LET'S GO WITH THAT.

.....

LOOK, WHATEVER. JUST STICK A CORK IN THIS SUCKER ASAP, ALL RIGHT?

DID YOU SAY SOME-THING?

HUH?

NOPE. NOT A THING.

UH...

SURE.

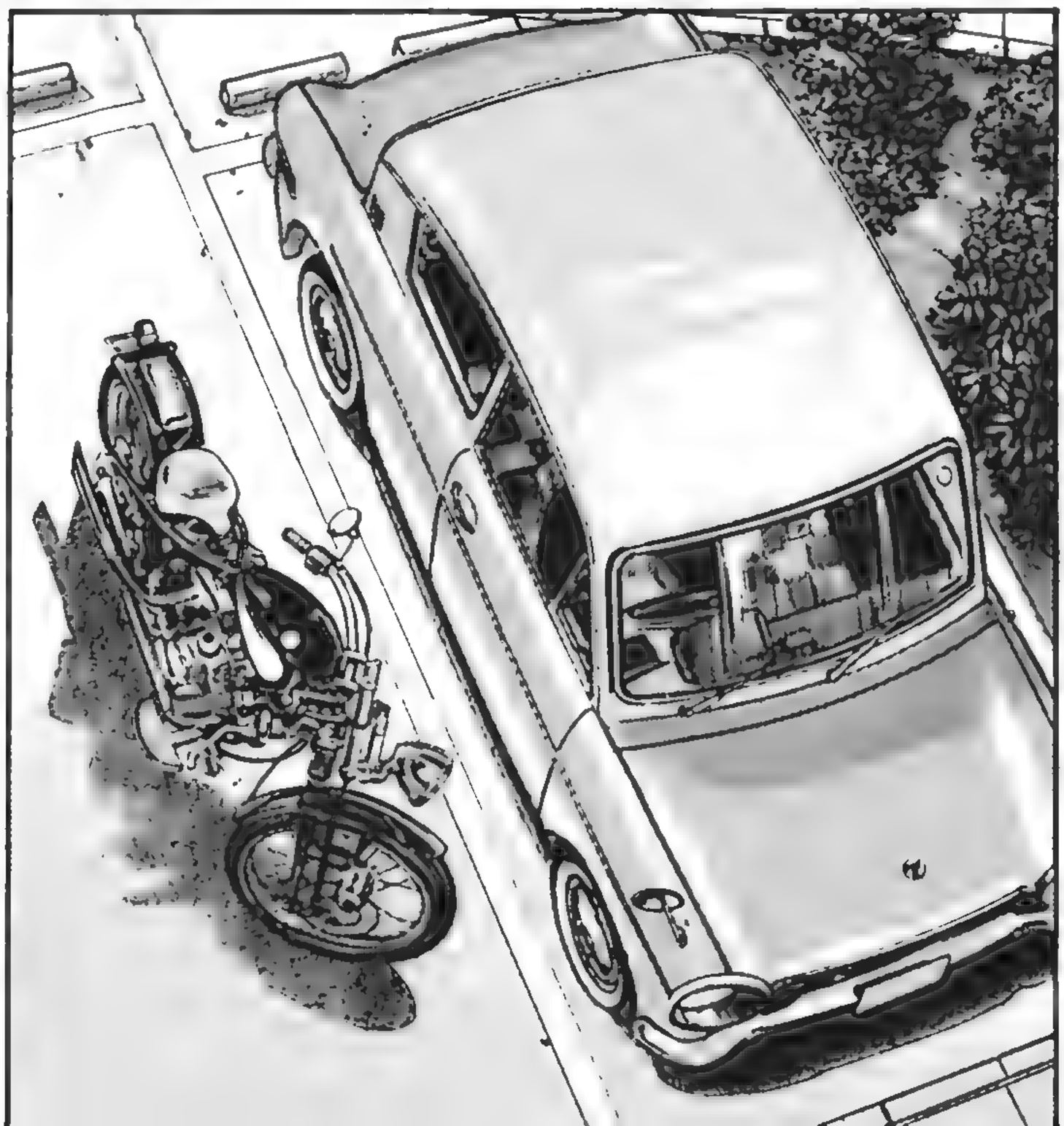
MUTTER MUTTER

IF YOU EVEN CAN.

C'MON. LET'S GO.







CHAPLSH

TOTO

WHOZZA HAPPY LI'L FISHY? *SHO* CUTE!

THERE YA GO! PLENTY OF SPACE TO SWIM AROUND!

.....

!

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

SUCH PRETTY FINS... ♪

HEH HEH ...

STARE...

BEAUTIFUL CREATURES, AREN'T THEY...

.....

UH... SURE.

NAKOSHI-SAN? ♪

OH, NOTHING.

WHAT'S WRONG?

.....

.....

FWUMP

CHANGE INTO THIS IN THE MEANTIME, ALL RIGHT?

OKAY.

WELP, I'VE GOT TO PREP THE OPERATION ROOM.

GA-CHAK

BA-
TNK

SHWF

KTAK

HUNH...

GUESS THAT'S HIS DAD?

WHERE HAVE I SEEN THAT FACE BEFORE...?

C-COMING!

KLATTA

OKEY DOKE, NAKOSHI-SAN! WE'RE GOOD TO GO!

BA-TNK

KCHK KCHK

HM....♪ HM- HMM... ♪ HMMM ♫

THEY'RE NOT HOMUNCULI, REMEMBER?

Medieval trephination from The Body, by Alan E. Nourse, Incorporated, 1964

READY TO KISS THOSE HOMUNCULI GOODBYE, NAKOSHI-SAN?

KCHK

KCHK

THEY'RE DELUSIONS. PRODUCTS OF MY FUCKED-UP MIND.

DO KEEP IN MIND, OF COURSE, THAT THESE HALLUCINATIONS ARE PSYCHOSOMATIC.

GLUP LUP

THERE'S NO PROOF THAT CLOSING THE HOLE WILL BE ENOUGH TO MAKE THEM DISAPPEAR.

HA HA HA!

SWSH

SWSH

THAT THEY ARE!

IT WILL BE!

HALT!

IF YOU CLOSE THIS HOLE, THEY'LL *ALL* DISAPPEAR.

HEH... DULY NOTED.

KCHK KCHK

I KNOW IT.

GLUP コポ GLUP コポ

!

BEFORE I GO BLIND AGAIN...

NOW, THE ANESTHETIC.

WANNA KNOW WHAT KIND OF MONSTER *YOU* LOOK LIKE?

!

TOTALLY!

I'D LOVE TO!

SCRITCH SCRITCH

.....

YOU, PAL...

ARE MADE OF WATER.

GLUP GLP GLP

GLURP

HA HA!

WHOA!

WATER, HUH? COOL!

THE WATER'S CLEAR AS GLASS.

SO AT FIRST GLANCE...

PA-SHK

YOU LOOK *INVISIBLE.*

SCRITCH SCRITCH

OOOH, THE INVISIBLE MAN! BADASS.

THERE'LL BE THESE LITTLE BUBBLES...

AND IT SLOSHES AROUND INSIDE YOU.

BUT SOMETIMES, IF YOU GET FREAKED OUT...

AND IN THOSE MOMENTS, I CAN SEE--JUST BARELY--WHAT YOU'RE *REALLY* MADE OF.

GLRP GLRP

GLRP

DKRK

KAHK

JAB

JAB

JAB

DUDE, THAT'S SO WEIRD!

OR BURSTS OUT OF YOU ALL AT ONCE.

TWITCH

THE WATER SPILLS OVER...

WHEN IT GETS REALLY BAD...

GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP

!

KRAK

BLRSH..

WHP

WHOA!

WHA --?!

SSSSHOOOOHHHH

EGH...

HGH!

WAH...!

.....

HA HA HA!

YOU'RE SO WEIRD, NAKOSHI-SAN.

.....

.....

!

DOES THE ME IN YOUR FANTASY WORLD LOOK "FREAKED OUT"?

HOW ABOUT NOW?

SO...

WANT ME TO *MAKE* YOU FREAK OUT?

HSSOOOM

PA-KRAK

NEVER TAUNT SOMEONE WHO'S ABOUT TO TAKE A SCALPEL TO YOUR NOGGIN, NAKOSHI-SAN.

WOULDN'T WANT ME TO SLIP!

SHF

!

TUG

GNG GNG GNG...

OHH, I WOULDN'T RECOM-MEND THAT!

PSH...

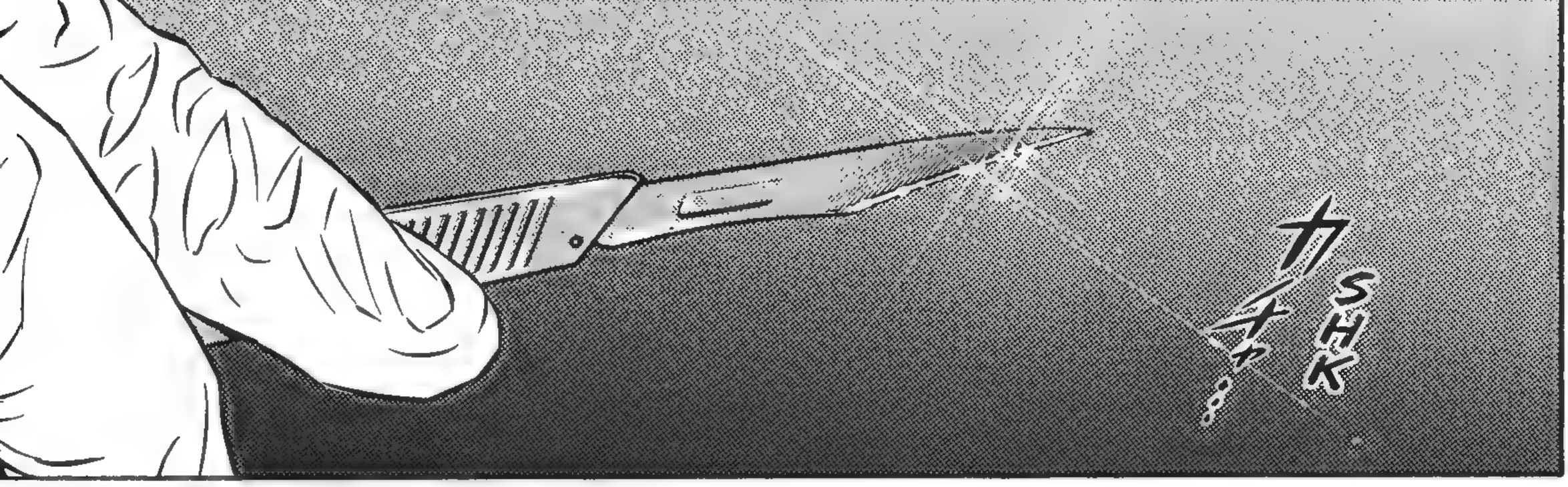
DOKIE!

OKIE...

.....

PRICK

NGH ...!


カチャ
SHK




HERE WE GO, NAKOSHI-SAN.
READY?


?


WHAT ABOUT YOU? ARE YOU OKAY?

OF COURSE! ♪

GLUP

GLP

JSHH

SHALL WE?

GLURP

GLOP

GRRGL

GLUG

BLUB

JLSHHHH

BLURGL

GLUGG

!!

OH.

NOW I GET IT.

YOUR FATHER.

IT'S...

HUH?

GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
N...
NO.
DID YOU SAY SOME-THING JUST NOW?
HYU
RU
RU
R

EO

PKRK

GLP

GLP

GLP

GLP

GLP

GLP

GLP

VWSHH

BLOOSH

VWSHH

ERGH ...!

ARE YOU *SURE* YOU WANT ME TO CLOSE IT?

HUH ?!

NAKOSHI-SAN...

BLUB

BLUB

BLUB

.....

TWITCH

.....?

FUNNY ...

I COULD ASK YOU THE SAME THING.

BLOOOOSHH

PKRK

IN ANY CASE...

LOOK AT YOUR HANDS, MAN.

SURE YOU'RE GOOD TO PERFORM SURGERY?

?

……?

WHAT THE ...?

HUH?

SWISH

PKRK

"ATM"

ZZZZZZZZZ

H-HOW WEIRD!

THE HECK?

ガシッ

ブンッ

ブンッ

ブンッ

YOU CAN'T RUN FROM ME.

AND I DON'T THINK I CAN RUN FROM *YOU*, EITHER.

.....?

YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?

YOU AND I... WE'VE GOT THE SAME BAGGAGE.

THAT...

CONNECTS THE TWO OF US.

THIS LITTLE HOLE'S LIKE A HOLLOW TUBE...

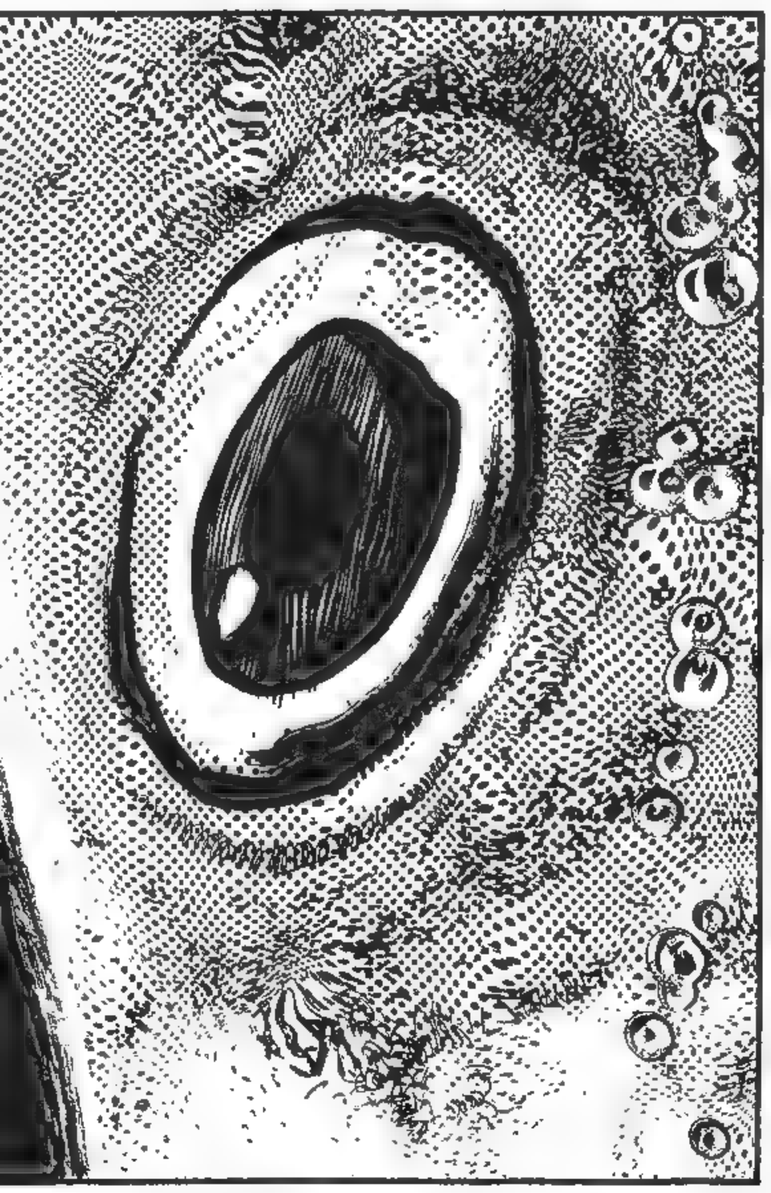
OUR ONLY CHANNEL TO THE OTHER SIDE.

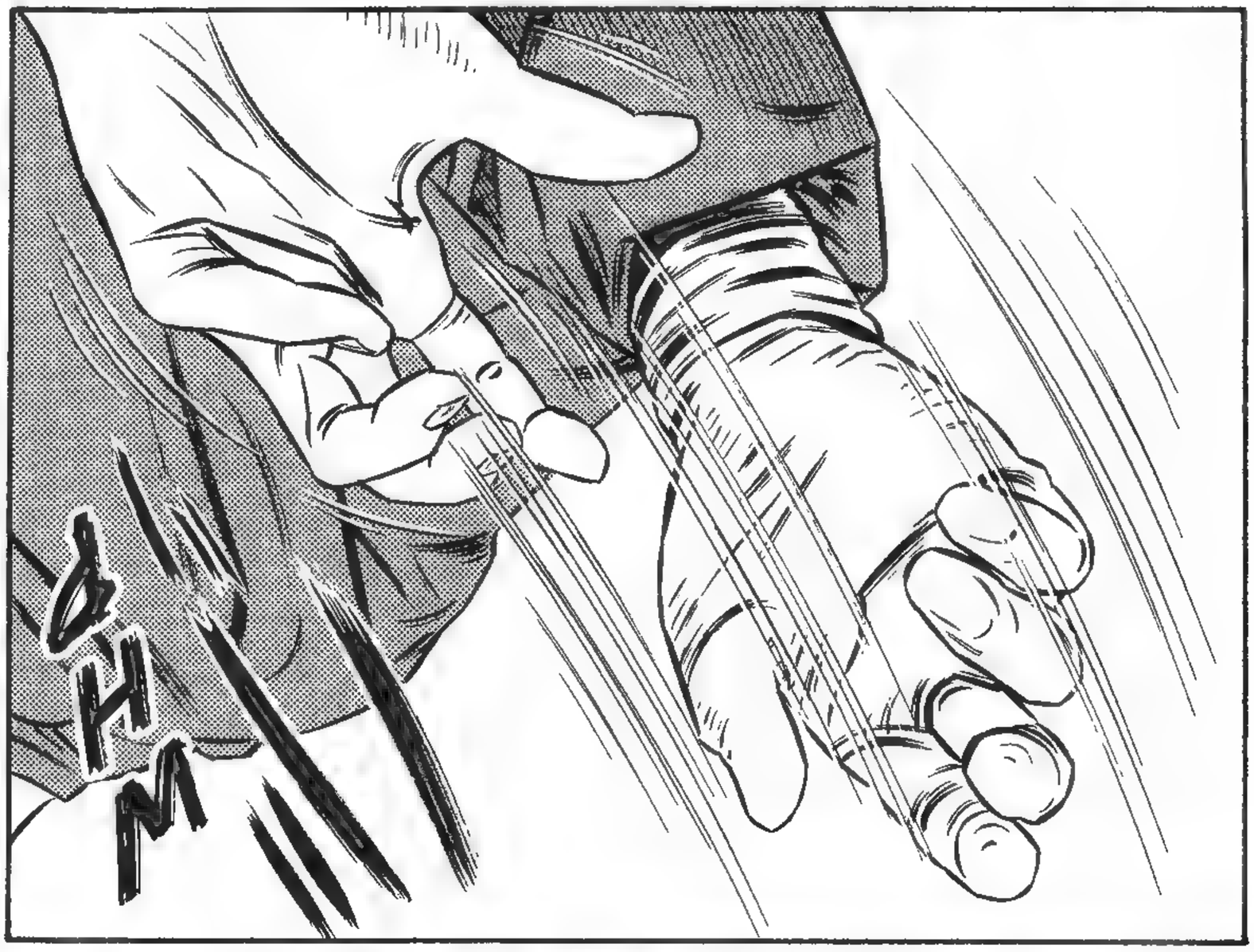
.....

YOU CAN SEAL IT UP OR LEAVE IT OPEN...

BUT *YOU'VE* GOTTA MAKE THAT CHOICE.


GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
OMIGOD!




SHA





THIS ISN'T THAT DEEP, DUDE. CHILL OUT! *HA HA...*

YOU'RE *SO* WEIRD!

.....!

IN ANY CASE, 'FRAID WE'LL HAVE TO TAKE A RAIN CHECK.

I STRAINED MY HAND BOWLING YESTERDAY. GUESS I'M NOT AS RECOVERED AS I THOUGHT!

GOD, YOU'RE SO FRICKING CREEPY.

RUB

RUB

.....

KLATTA カラン

HUP! ♪

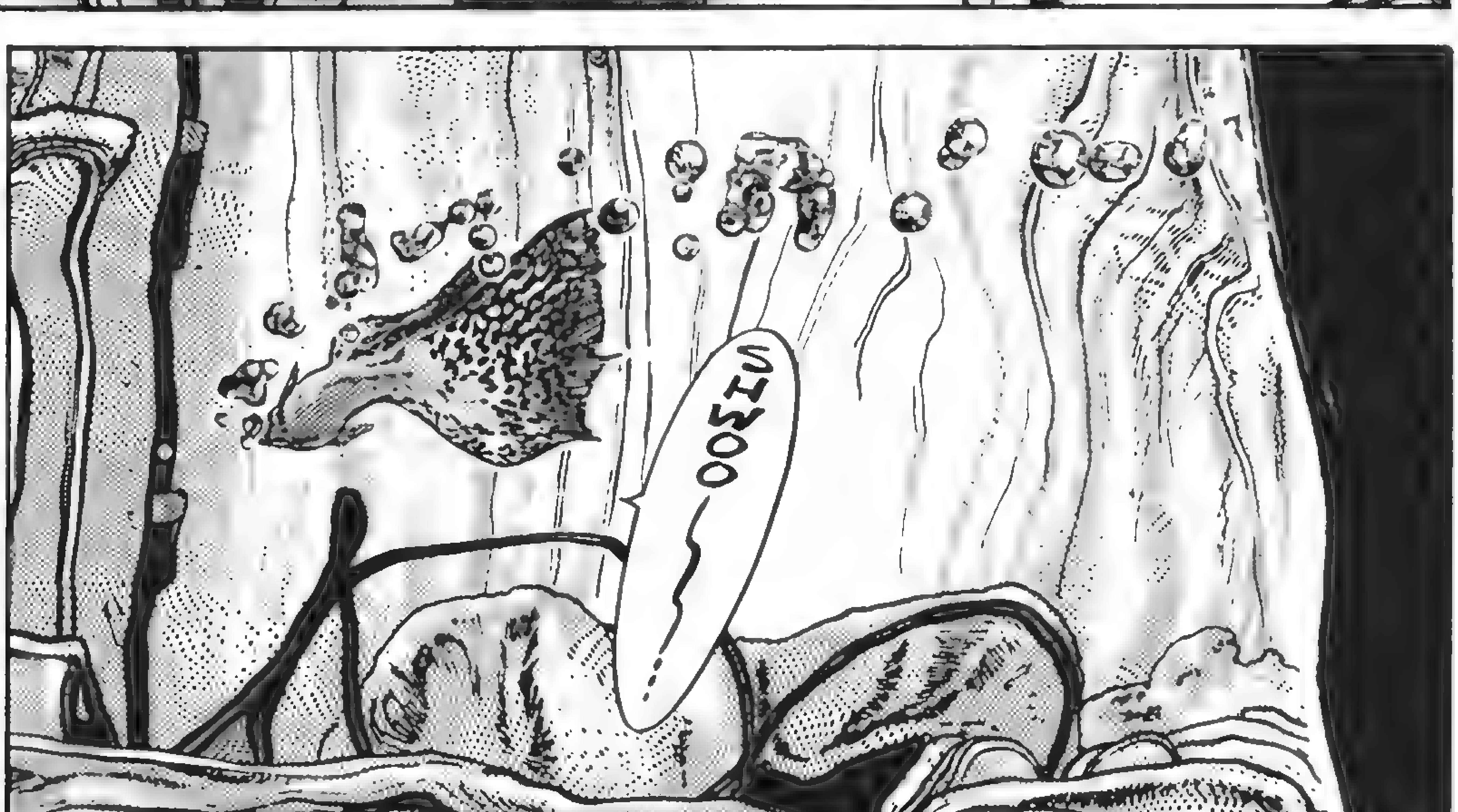
I'LL SANITIZE THE WOUND FOR YOU, BUT I'M AFRAID THAT'S ALL WE CAN DO FOR TODAY.

FILLING A HOLE IN THE SKULL IS A RATHER DELICATE PROCEDURE.

RELAX. WE CAN ALWAYS CLOSE IT LATER.

HEH.


......
KCHK
KCHK


SHWOO

THERE! WELL, NOW YOU WON'T HAVE TO DEAL WITH ANY PUS, AT LEAST.

SO THAT'S GOOD.

!

SINCE I'M ALREADY PREPPED ...

PARDON ?!

.....?

HOW 'BOUT YOU STITCH MY RIGHT EYE SHUT?

AND SEW UP THIS EYE.

TAKE A NEEDLE ...

I SAID TO SEW THIS SUCKER SHUT! NOW!

ARE YOU DEAF?

TAP

TAP

UH...

LOOKS OKAY TO ME.

B...BUT MY HAND'S ALL MESSED UP FROM BOWL--

.....!

UM...

A SURGEON NEEDS A STEADY--

LIKE I SAID, YOU'RE *FINE*. LOOK.

NAKOSHI-SAN...

WHAT ON *EARTH* ARE YOU THINKING?

WELL... SEE YOU ON THE OTHER SIDE.

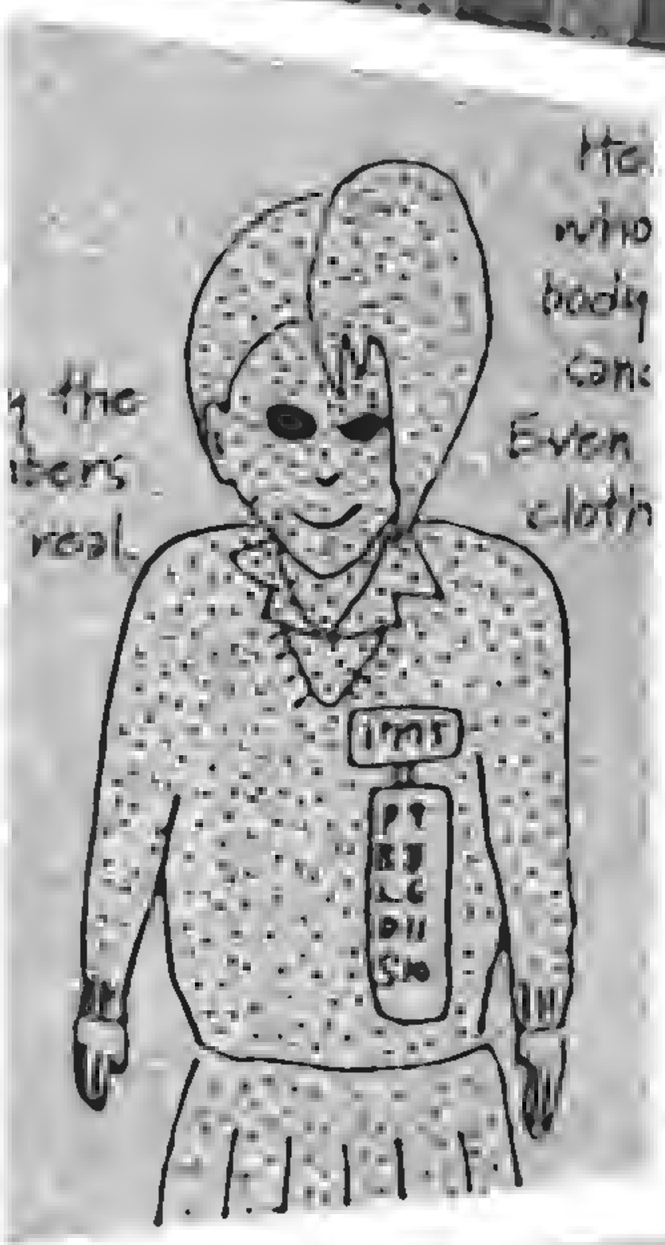
SHF...

Open up, pleeease!

the
art of
destiny
is
not
the
body

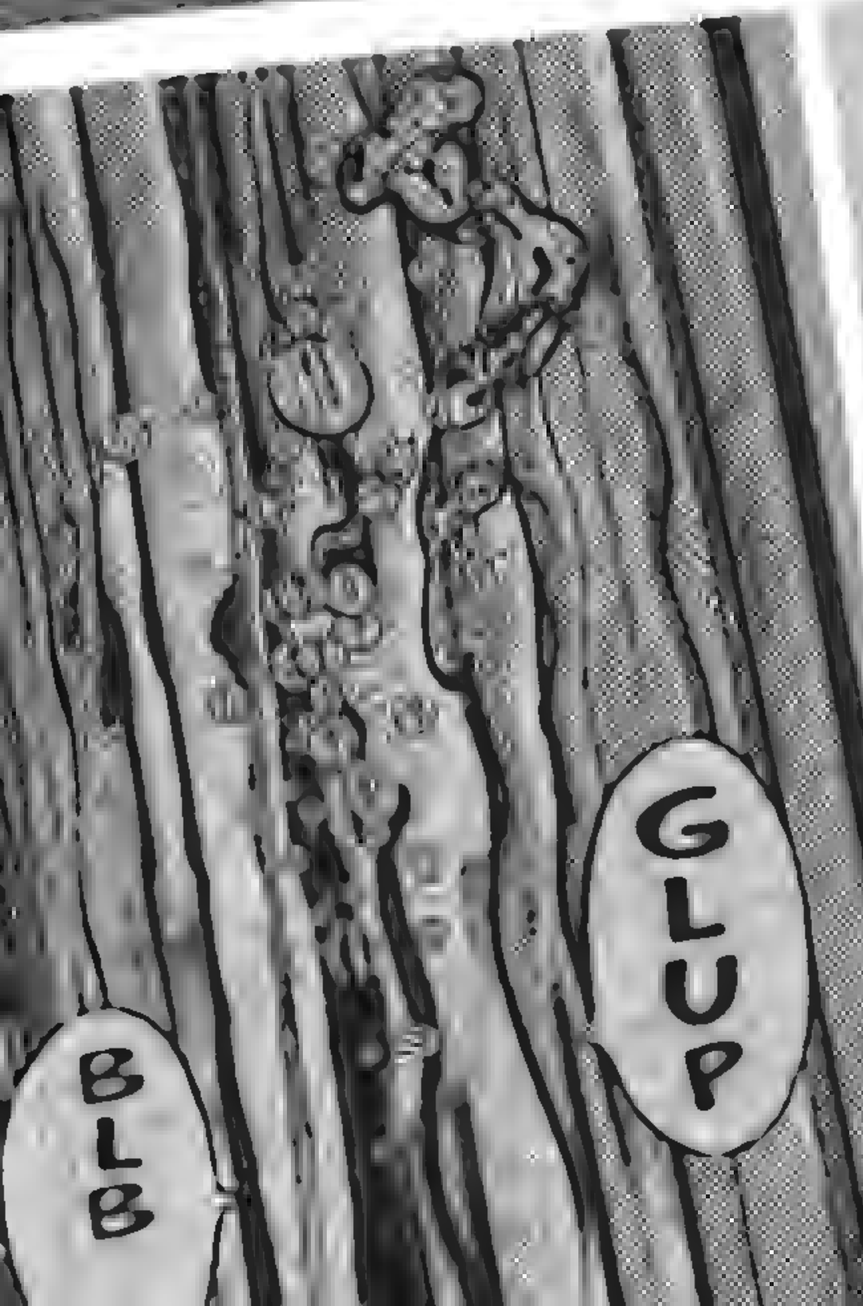





the
Even
cloth






GLUP
BLB


These homunculi... are actually yourself.

H...

hold on...

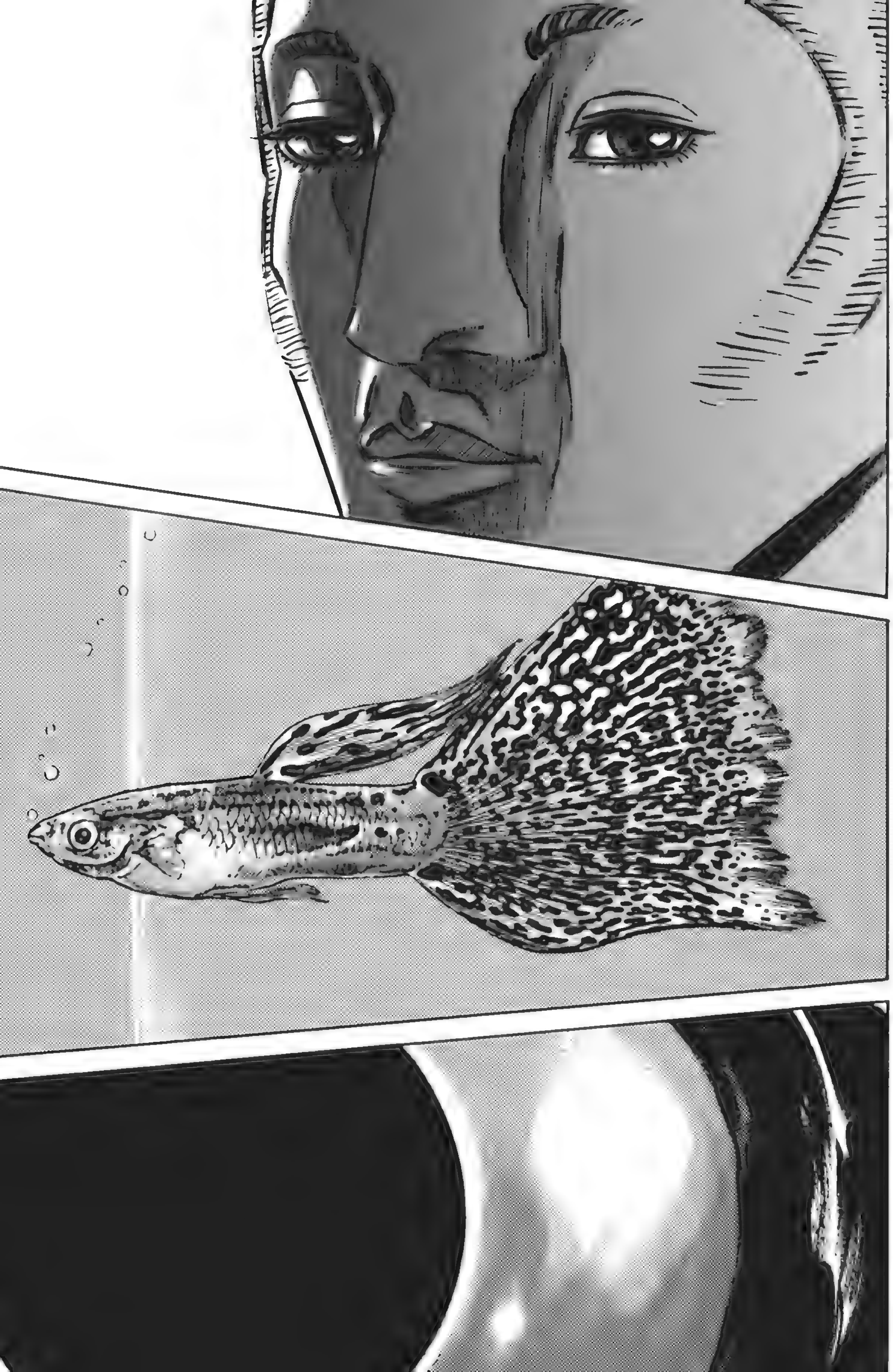
Come on.

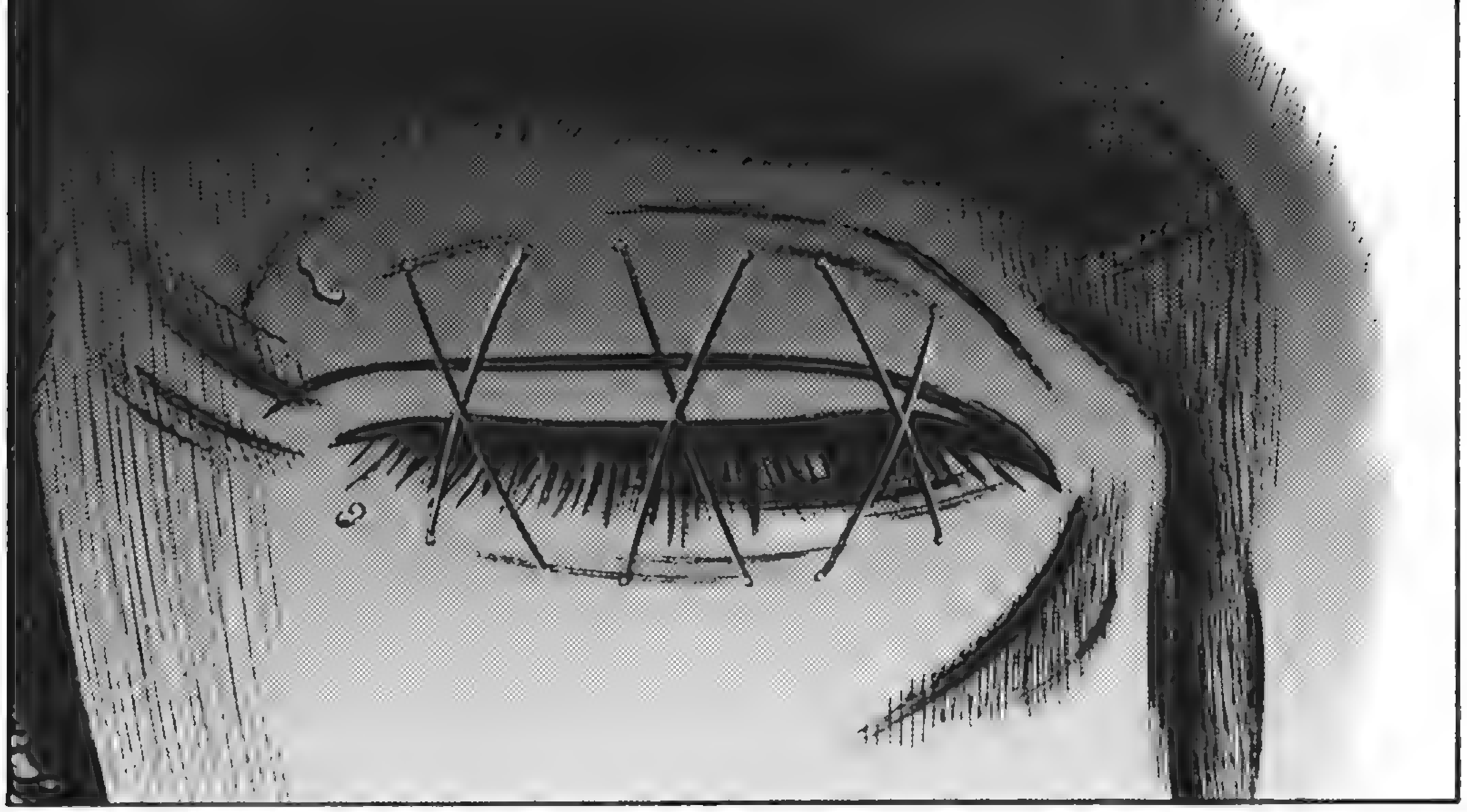
She's... absorbing him

GLK GLK GLK

GLK GLK GLK

GLK GLK GLK





HA HA HA!

GLUP LUP

MORNING, NAKOSHI-SAN!

WELCOME TO THE WORLD OF HOMUNCULI.



.....

!

NAKOSHI-SAN...

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D REALLY ASK TO BE **MUTILATED** OVER THIS.

WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU AFTER?

.....

AND AFTER YOU MADE ALL THAT NOISE ABOUT NOT WANTING TO SEE US ANYMORE.

TELL ME, WHAT DO THESE HOMUNCULI MEAN TO YOU NOW, NAKOSHI-SAN?

THEY'RE *DELUSIONS.*

THEY'RE NOT HOMUNCULI.

.....

LIGHTEN UP! I'M ONLY MESSING WITH YOU! ♪

OMIGOD, NAKOSHI-SAN!

RUSTLE

A little boy inside the

ENOUGH SMALL TALK.

!

AFTER THE ONE WITH THE GANG LEADER...

YOU GAINED A MECHANICAL ARM.

boy inside

YOU SAY YOU HAD "ENCOUNTERS" WITH THESE TWO MONSTERS. WHAT HAPPENED?

TELL ME. IN YOUR DELUSIONS ...

YOUR LEG TURNED TO SAND--HER GRAIN-SIZED SYMBOLS.

AND AFTER THE ONE WITH THE GIRL...

during the kiss pose.

Raises

THAT'S PRETTY SURREAL EVEN FOR A DREAM, YOU KNOW!

.....

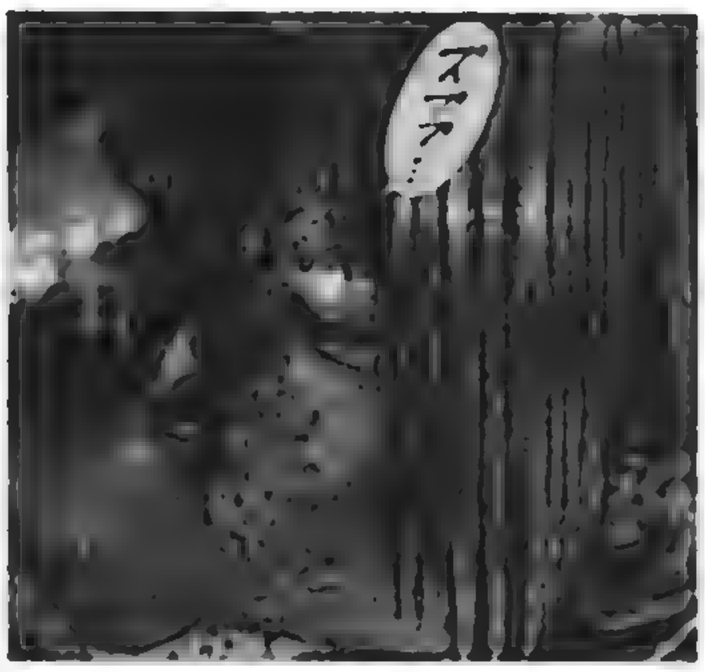
GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP

WELL? WHAT HAPPENED, NAKOSHI-SAN?! SPILL!!

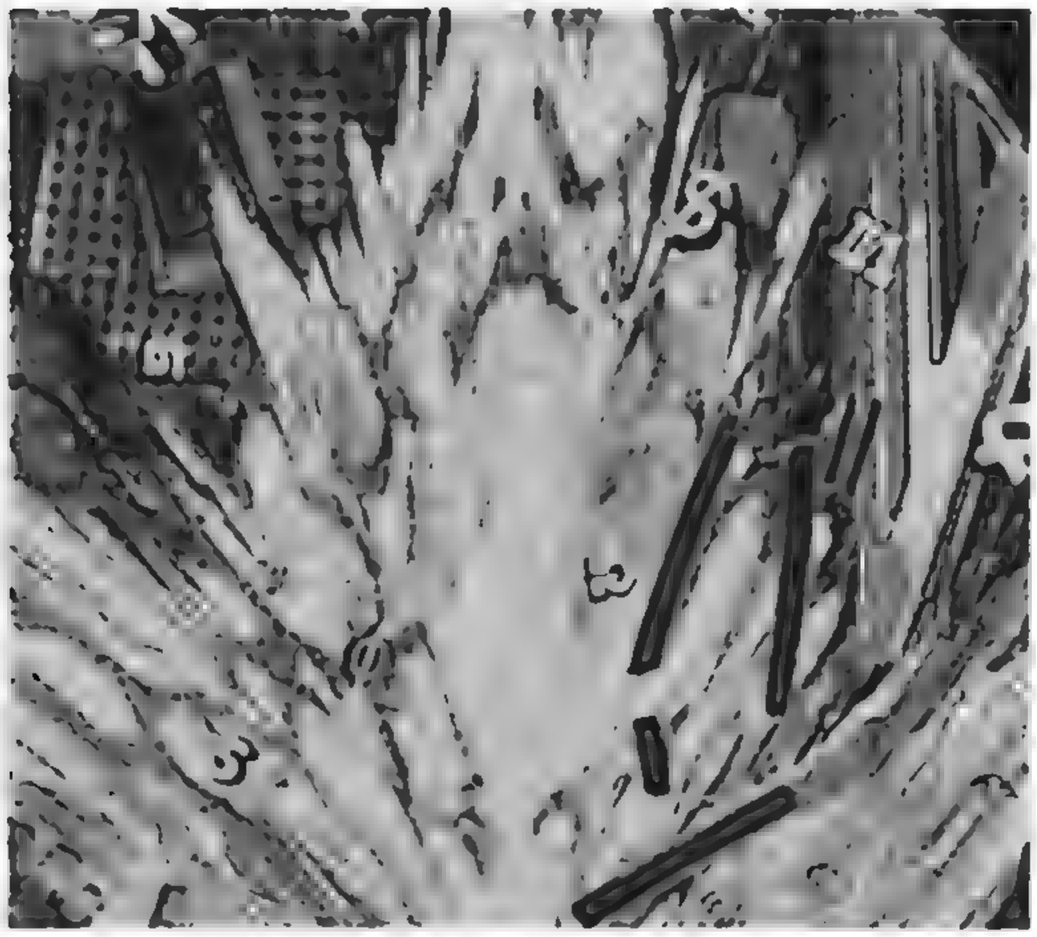
WHAT WENT DOWN BETWEEN YOU AND THESE MONSTERS ?!





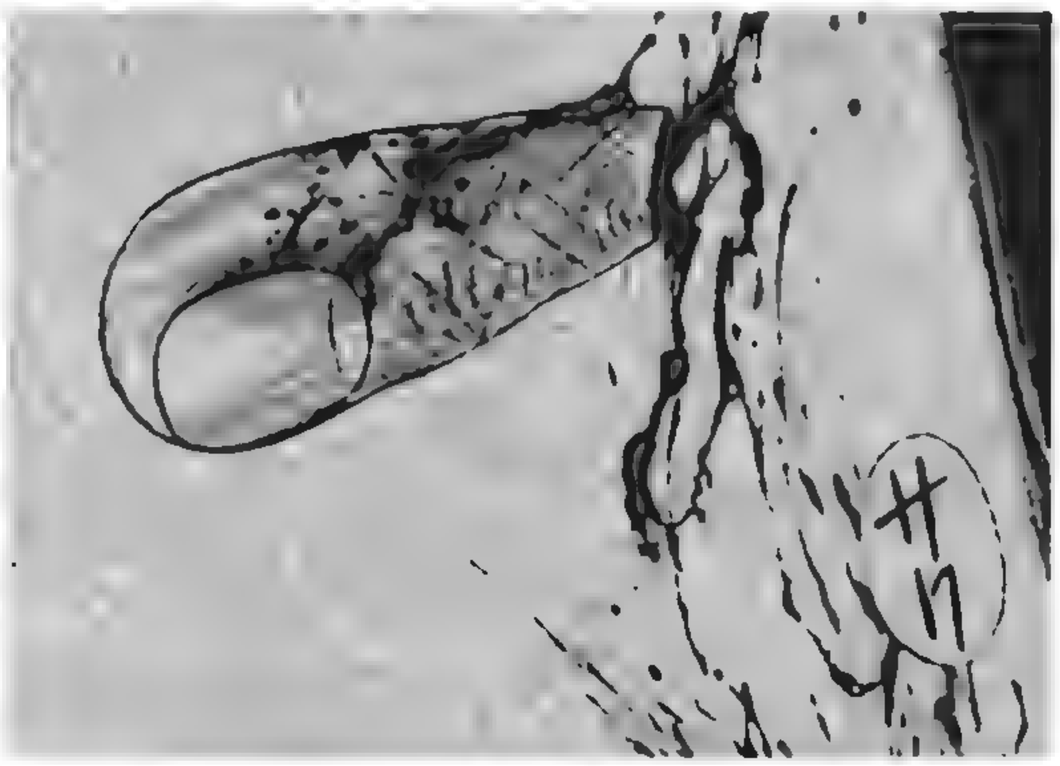












Text: Goodbye.

YOU SHOULD HAVE AN "ENCOUNTER" WITH ME TOO!!

FWSH

FWSH

I'VE GOT IT! YOU KNOW WHAT?

OOH!

PMF

GO ON! ♪

.....

.....

I'M PRETTY OPEN-MINDED! I CAN TAKE ANYTHING!

PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH
PLSH

!

GLUP GLUP

BESIDES, NAKOSHI-SAN...

.....?

NOW THAT YOU'RE SEALED INTO THIS DREAM-WORLD FOR GOOD...

GLUP GLUP...

THERE'S REALLY ONLY ONE THING TO DO, RIGHT?

!

FIGHT THE MONSTERS YOUR MIND HAS CONCOCTED.

AND YOU MIGHT AS WELL START WITH THE ONE IN FRONT OF YOU, *HM?*

IT'S JUST FOR FUN. ♪

THIS ISN'T PART OF THE EXPERIMENT.

I THOUGHT YOU WERE DONE WITH "MY THING."

GLUP

YOU REALLY WANNA HEAR IT THAT BAD?

TOTALLY!

ALL ABOUT THIS DREAM I'VE BEEN HAVING...

THESE PAST FEW DAYS?

I'M *SUPER* CURIOUS.

I *DID* SPEND THREE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN ON IT, AFTER ALL.

?!

.....

NO NEED TO BE SO TIGHT-LIPPED ABOUT IT! WHAT HAPPENED?

COME ON, NAKOSHI-SAN! JUST TELL ME!

.....

I GOT THE GANG LEADER'S PINKIE CHOPPED OFF.

AS FOR THE GIRL? I FUCKED HER.

!!

YOU HAD SEX WITH HER?!

HIS FINGER...?

BLURBL

WAIT A MINUTE! TIME OUT, TIME OUT!!

THEN WHAT ARE YOU GONNA DO TO ME?!

I WOULD ALSO REALLY PREFER TO KEEP ALL TEN DIGITS INTACT, Y'KNOW?

UH... I KNOW I SAID I WAS OPEN-MINDED, BUT SEX WITH A GUY IS *WAY* OUT OF MY STRIKE ZONE.

!

WH-WHOA!!

STARE

.....?

HUH?

KLA-T-T-A

WHP

L-LOOK, BEFORE YOU DO ANYTHING CRAZY...

STARE

WH-WH-WHUH-WHOA, BACK OFF!!

BUT I WAS KINDA HOPING THE "HOMUNCULUS SKETCH" FEATURE WAS INCLUDED IN THE SERVICES I PAID YOU FOR...

I HATE TO ASK...

.....

LET'S ASSUME IT IS, AND YOU OWE ME.

THAT'S WHAT I'M MADE OF, RIGHT?

WATER ...

GET SKETCHIN', PARTNER!

NOW THEN...

Inside is full to the brim with water.

← See-through container shaped like father (sometimes looks invisible).

MY FATHER, HUH?

THIS *DOES* LOOK LIKE MY DAD, SURE.

WELL...

.....

.....!

I'D RATHER YOU DIDN'T GO THROUGH MY PHOTOS WITHOUT ASKING.

BUT, NAKOSHI-SAN, IF YOU DON'T MIND...

!

!

SO! IN ESSENCE, MY HOMUNCULUS IS JUST LIKE...

THAT FISH TANK THERE. IS THAT IT?

CLEAR WATER, TRAPPED IN A CONTAINER SHAPED LIKE MY FATHER.

.....?

WAIT...

STARE...

FWIP!

HAVE I GOT THAT RIGHT?

TH...THE GUPPY!

SOUNDS LIKE YOU'RE SAYING 1775 AND I ARE CUT FROM THE SAME CLOTH!

IT'S GONE!

WHERE IS IT?

WHERE DID IT GO??

WELL, IT'S TRUE THAT MY FATHER WAS RATHER STRICT WHEN I WAS GROWING UP. STILL IS.

IT DID INSPIRE QUITE THE REBELLIOUS STREAK AND LIKELY MORE THAN A FEW INSECURITIES.

COME NOW. YOU DON'T WANT FOLKS SAYING YOUR HALLUCINA-TIONS ARE *CLICHÉ*, DO YOU?

.....

BUT COME *ON*. ME AND, LIKE, EVERY TEENAGER ON THE PLANET, RIGHT? THAT'S TOO SIMPLE, TOO...**COMMON!**

THE WATER'S PERFECTLY STILL AGAIN.

IT'S HOW ONE DEVELOPS A HEALTHY SENSE OF SELF.

CLASHING WITH ONE'S FATHER IS A NORMAL PART OF *ANY* MAN'S LIFE.

IT IS WITHIN THIS BALANCE THAT ONE'S PERSONAL-ITY IS FORMED.

MOST PEOPLE GROW UP IN EQUILIBRIUM, INFLUENCED BOTH BY THEIR MOTHER'S KINDNESS AND THEIR FATHER'S SEVERITY...

IS THIS... SOME KIND OF WALL?

THAT, AS I GREW UP, MY PERSONAL-ITY WAS CONSTRICTED BY HIS SHAPE, AND STRIPPED OF ALL ITS COLOR.

IF THE "STRICT FATHER" THING WAS ALL YOU KNEW ABOUT ME, ONE MIGHT EXTRAPOLATE...

UGH, COME ON. EVEN SOAPS AREN'T THIS CHEESY.

AND SO, ROBBED OF INDIVIDUALITY, THE LITTLE BOY BECOMES AN INVISIBLE MAN...

DISAP-PEAR FOR GOOD?!

DID THE GUPPY...

.....

!

WAS THERE TACKY MELODRAMA BETWEEN YOU AND *YOUR* FATHER?

TELL ME, NAKOSHI-SAN.

THAT EVERY-THING YOU SEE...

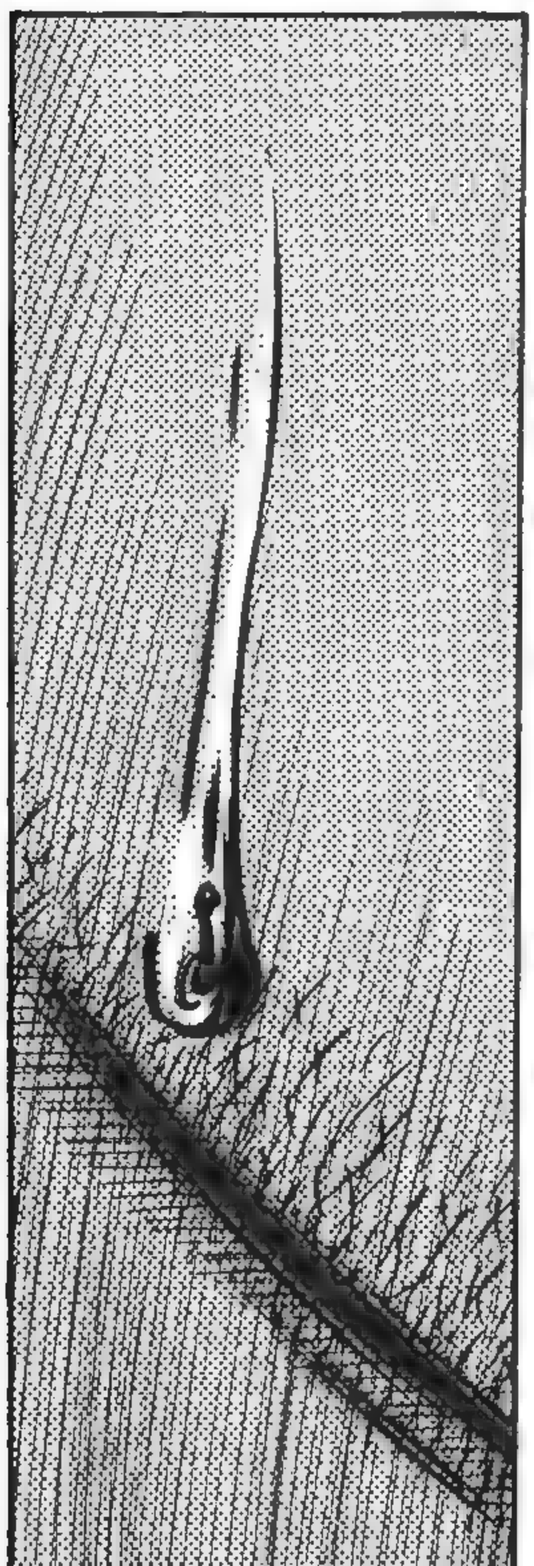
YOU KNOW FULL WELL...

.....!

YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN.

IS JUST A MIRROR UPON WHICH YOU REFLECT YOUR OWN DISTORTIONS.






SO YOU'RE MERELY PROJECTING YOUR UNRESOLVED ISSUES WITH YOUR OWN FATHER ONTO ME.


YEAH.

I DON'T BELIEVE IT'S REALLY ABOUT FATHERS OR WATER.

I DON'T THINK YOUR HOMUNCULUS IS THAT SIMPLE, ITO.

MM... NAH.

Every human container shaped like father (sometimes looks invisible).

to the brim with water.

GLUP LUP ...

?!

COVER STORIES?

THOSE THINGS ARE JUST **COVER STORIES** YOU USE TO DISGUISE THE REAL ISSUE.

YOU *DO* JUST SEEM LIKE A TALL GLASS OF DADDY ISSUES.

SO AT FIRST GLANCE, MAYBE...

YEAH. THE GANG LEADER WASN'T *ACTUALLY* A ROBOT.

THE ROBOT WAS JUST PROTECTING THE LITTLE BOY INSIDE.

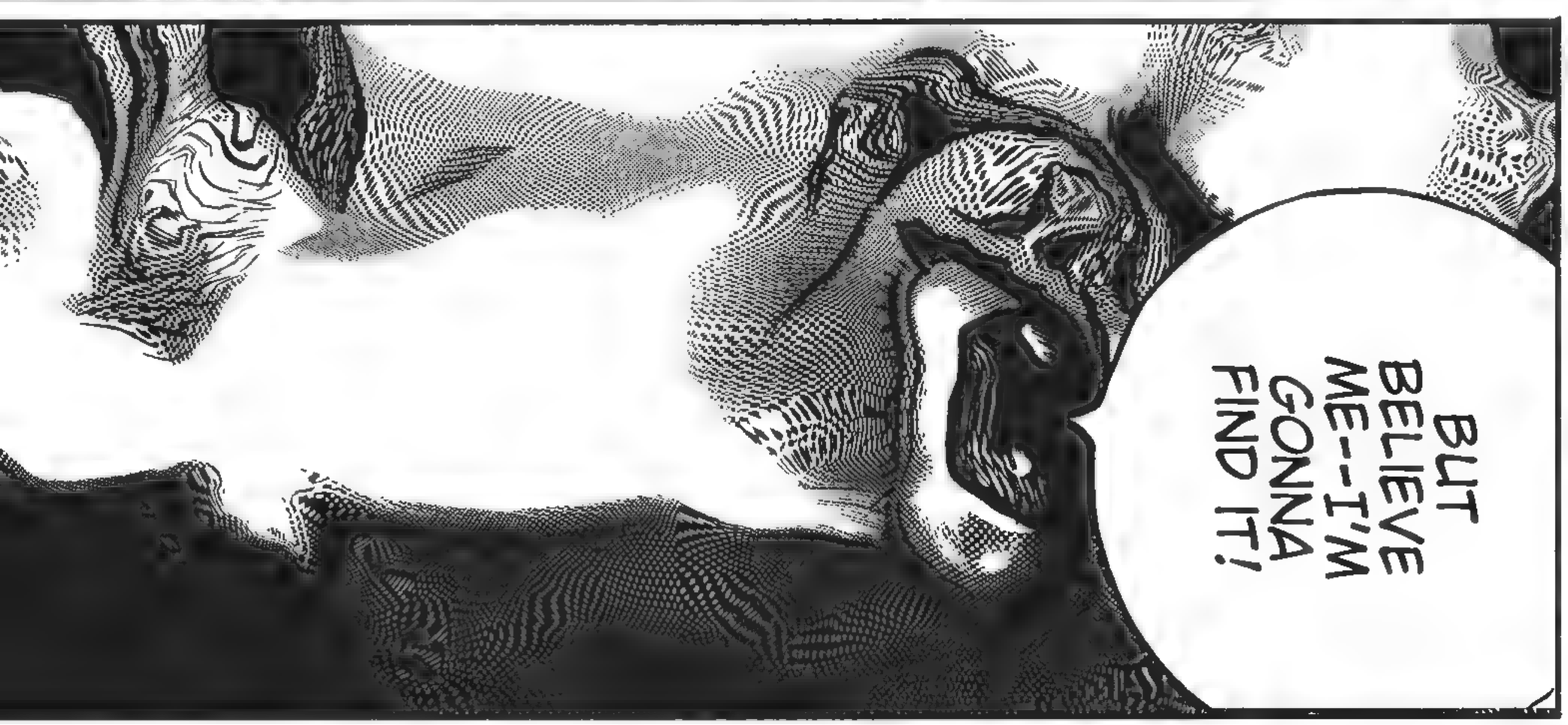
AND THAT GIRL *LOOKED* LIKE SAND...

BUT THE GRAINS WERE REALLY SYMBOLS.


...ACLG


BUT THAT'S JUST A DISGUISE. WE'VE YET TO EVEN COME CLOSE TO THE TRUE STORY.


BLUB
BLUB


BUT BELIEVE ME--I'M GONNA FIND IT!

!!!

WHOOSH

ARRGH

WHA...

.....?

WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT?

CALM DOWN!

N... NAKOSHI-SAN?

GLP GLP GLP GLP

ブボボ…

WHERE ARE YOU HIDING IT?!

WHERE'S THAT LITTLE PRICK HIDING?!

WHERE *IS* IT?

!!

GLUP

ゴボボ

IT'S GOTTEN SO SMALL...

IT WAS HIDING IN HIS POCKET!

I FOUND IT!

GLP LUP

SO YOU NEVER WENT AWAY. NOT REALLY.

!

SNRFF

I NEVER NOTICED IT BEFORE...

I SEE.

BUT IT'S BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME, HASN'T IT? MAKING ITSELF SMALL, KEEPING OUT OF SIGHT...

?

MURMUR

YOU'VE BEEN THERE ALL ALONG.

WHAT'S THE POINT IN HIDING AWAY, ALL CURLED UP LIKE A FETUS?!

OPEN YOUR EYES!

NOW *WAKE UP!*

WHAT ?!

HEY. TURN OUT YOUR POCKETS.

HUH?

PIRO RO RO RO RO RO

BLUB

UHM, HARD PASS!

WFWP

CAN YOU TAKE A CHILL PILL? YOU'RE BEING ERRATIC AND... *WEIRD.*

LEAVE ME ALONE, DUDE!

GLP GLP GLP

SHUT UP AND SHOW ME!

IT'S BACK TO ITS NORMAL SIZE!

OH!

WH

P

PIRO RO RO RO RO

EW!! GET YOUR HAND OUT OF MY POCKET!

I DIDN'T SAY YOU COULD--

PIRO RO RO RO RO

AUGH!! WHAT ARE YOU--?!

SHOVE

SHUT UP AND HAND IT OVER!

WHP

BIP

KLAK

PIRO RO RO RO RO

HEY!

DON'T ANSWER MY-- DAMMIT!

HELLO?

NAKOSHI-SAAAAN!

HUH? ME? WAIT...

Call in session

Hiyori

YOU'RE NOT MANABUN, ARE YOU?

WHO IS THIS?

MANA-BUN? IS THAT YOU?

UM, HELLOOO? NAKOSHI-SAAAN?

WHO THE HELL IS THIS?!

CAN YOU PUT HIM ON?

UH, I DON'T... IS MANABUN THERE?

...HUH

Call in session

1 sec

UM, NONE OF YOUR BEESWAX? JEEZ.

WHAT KIND OF RELATIONSHIP DO YOU HAVE WITH THIS MAN?!

TK TK
TK TK

DAMN IT!

BEEP
BEEP
.....

Call History
1 12/20 16:07 Missed Call
Hiyori Incoming
2 11/29 23:02 Missed Call
Kinya Hisamitsu
3 11/28 19:56 Missed Call
4 11/21 22:01 Missed Call No connection
Number Withheld
5 11/ 6 22:38 Missed Call
Number Withheld
Menu Choose Switch

TK TK
TK TK

NOW WHAT ARE YOU DOING? YOU DO REALIZE THAT'S MY PHONE, RIGHT?!

WH-WHOA, WHOA!

1 12/20 16:07 Missed Call
Hiyori Incoming
2 11/29 23:02 Missed Call
Kinya Hisamitsu
3 11/28 19:56 Missed Call
4 11/21 22:01 Missed Call No connection
Number Withheld
5 11/ 6 22:38 Missed Call No connection
Number Withheld
Choose Switch

FWIP

WHO IS SHE?!

THAT WOMAN WHO JUST CALLED!

I'M NOT LYING! SHE'S A FRIEND FROM COLLEGE! LIKE THE SUPER NORMAL KIND LITERALLY EVERYONE HAS?

BULL-SHIT!!

WHO IS SHE *REALLY* ?!

12/20 16

Hiyori

UM... A FRIEND FROM COLLEGE...?

YOU'RE HIDING SOMETHING, AREN'T YOU?!

LIKELY FUCKING STORY!

!

GET OFF MY BACK!

JEEZ LOUISE, NAKOSHI-SAN!

YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A JEALOUS GIRLFRIEND OR SOME-THING!

WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?

SH...

SHIT, I GUESS I AM.

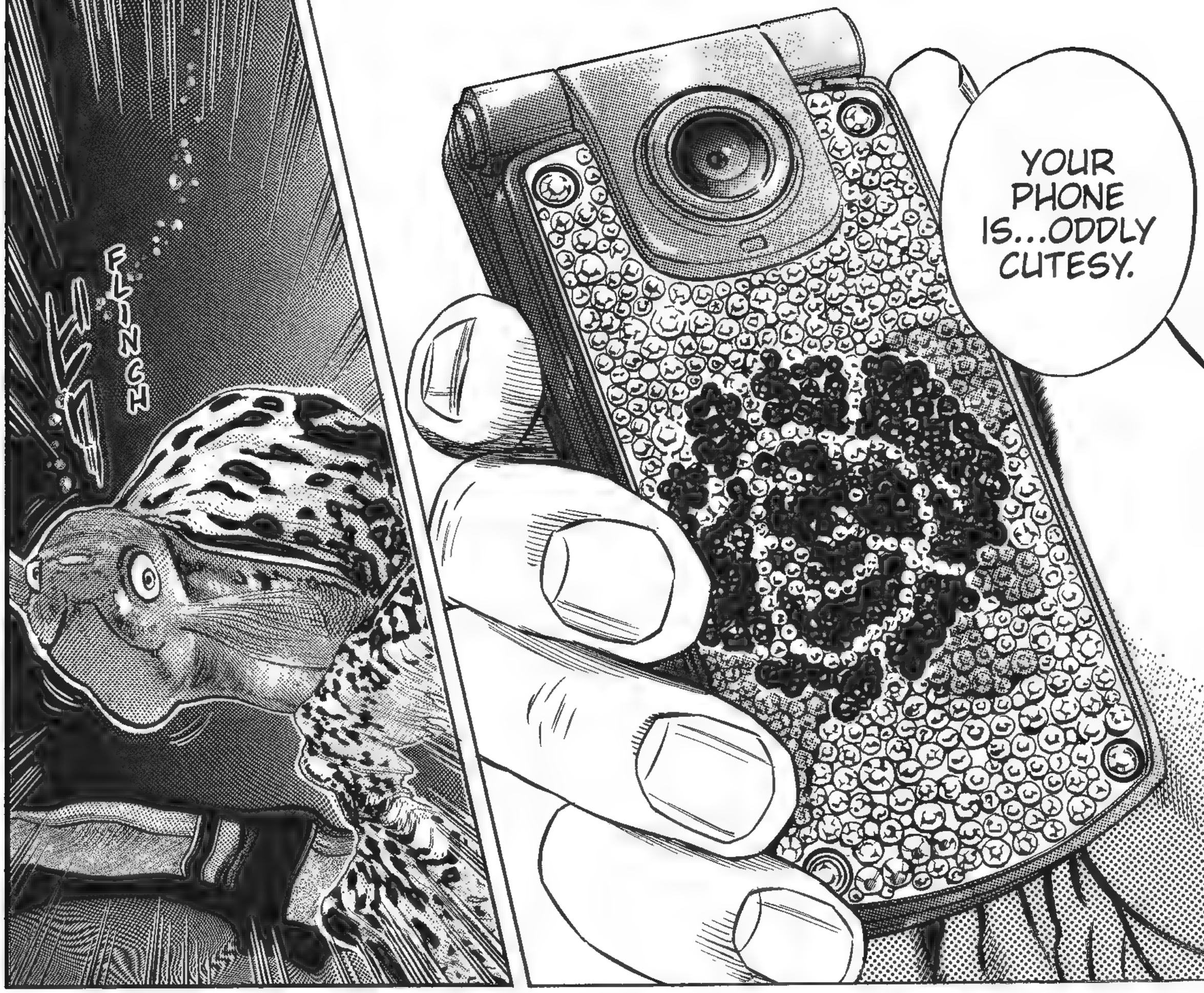
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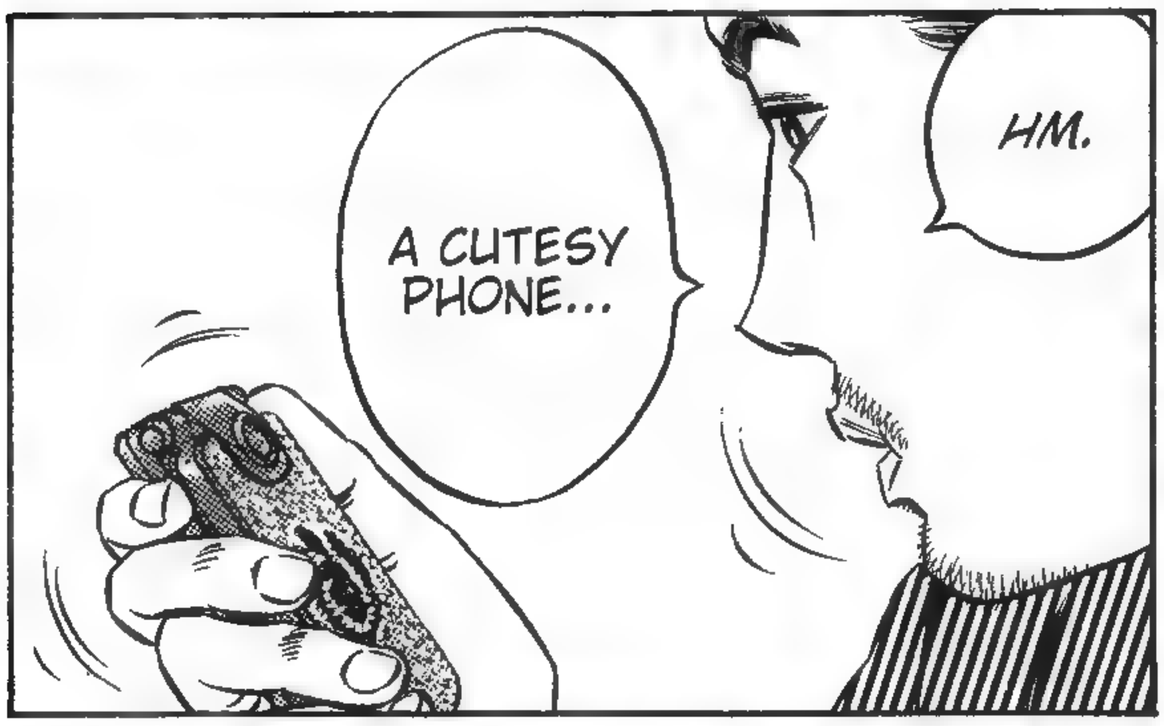
!

HUNH. . . .

SORRY, MAN.

KLAK


FLINCH
YOUR PHONE IS...ODDLY CUTESY.


A CUTESY PHONE...
HM.


BLUB
GLUB


!


.....?


GLURP

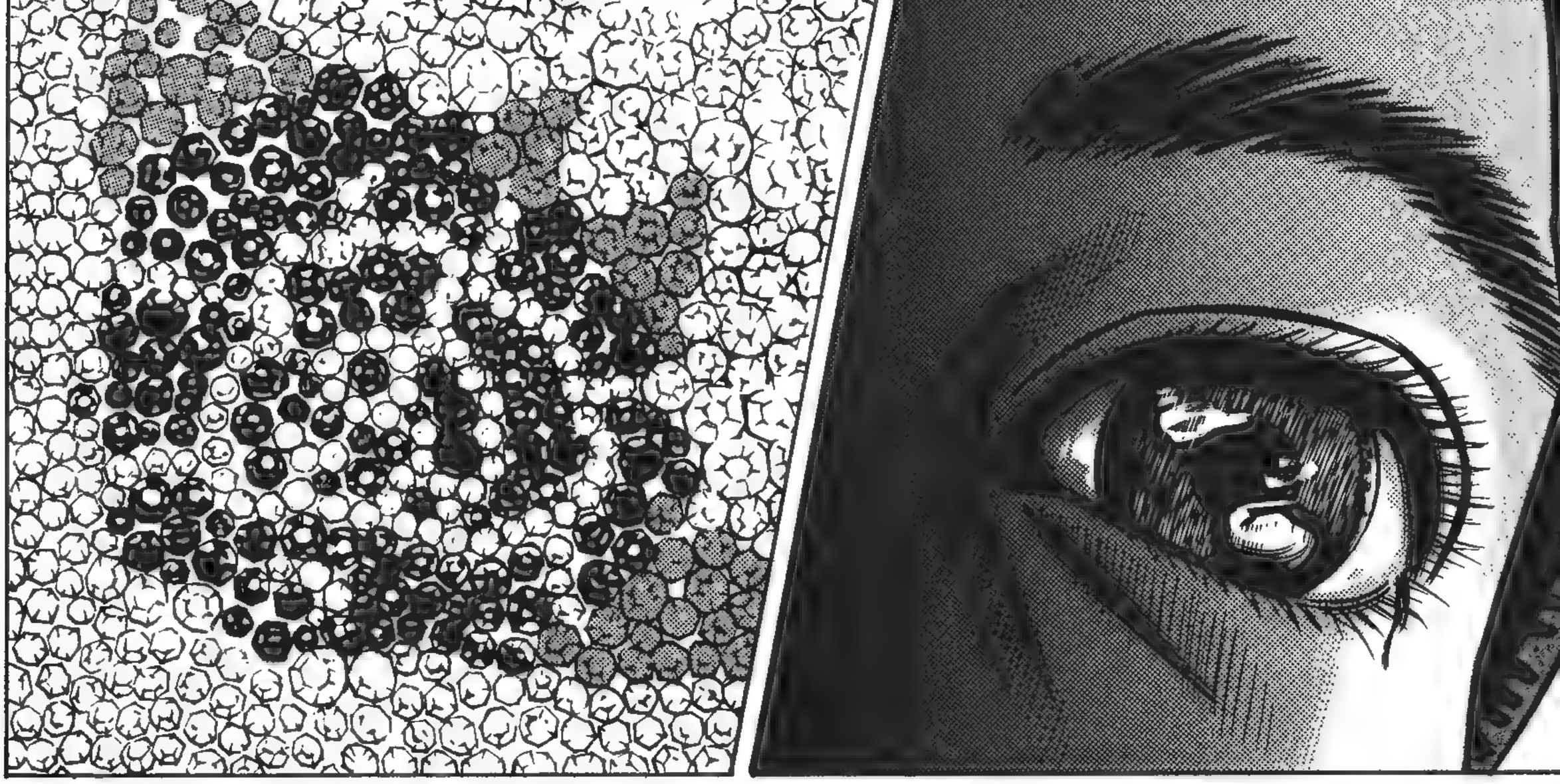
GOD...

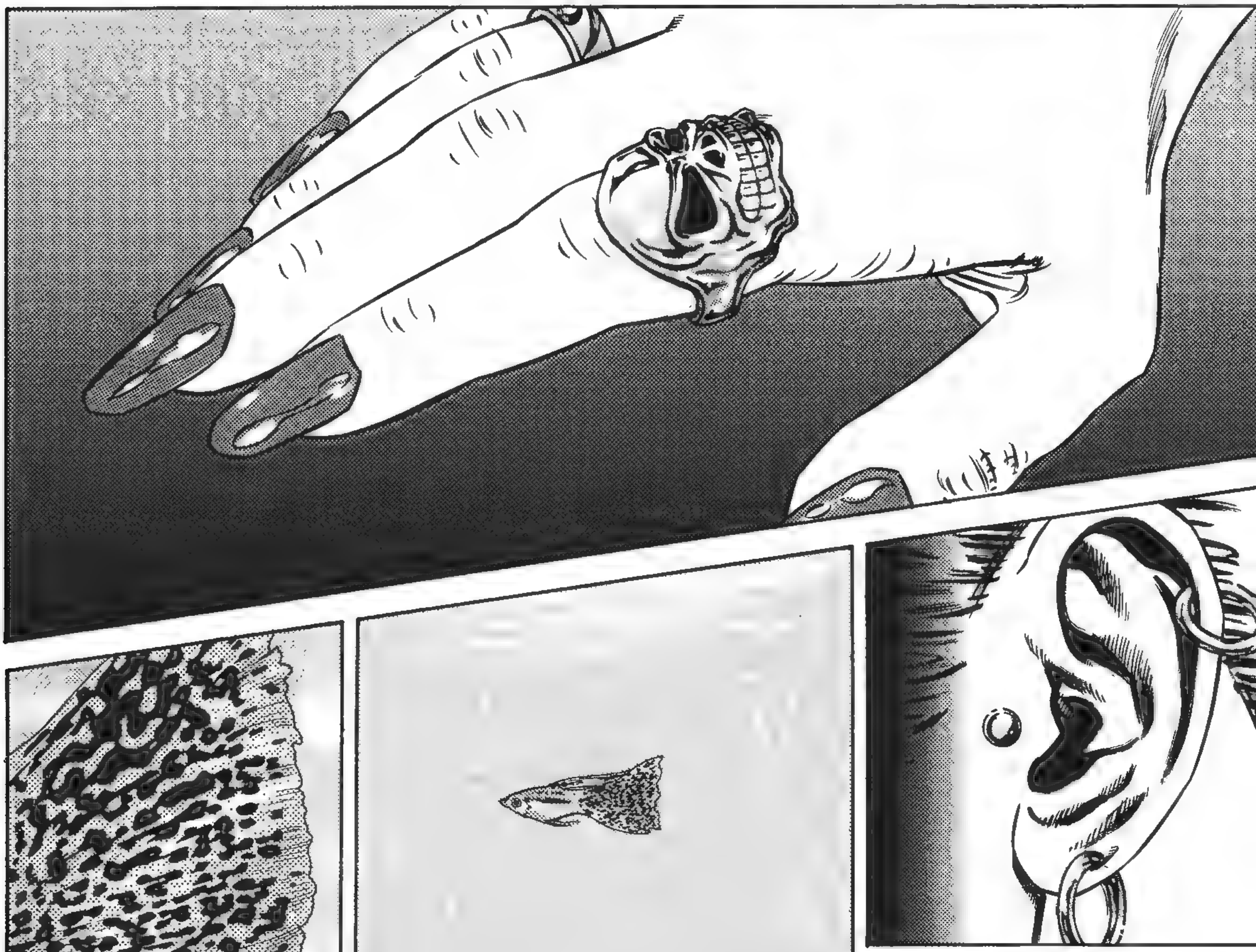
GIVE IT BACK ALREADY!

G...

WHOP

AAAA



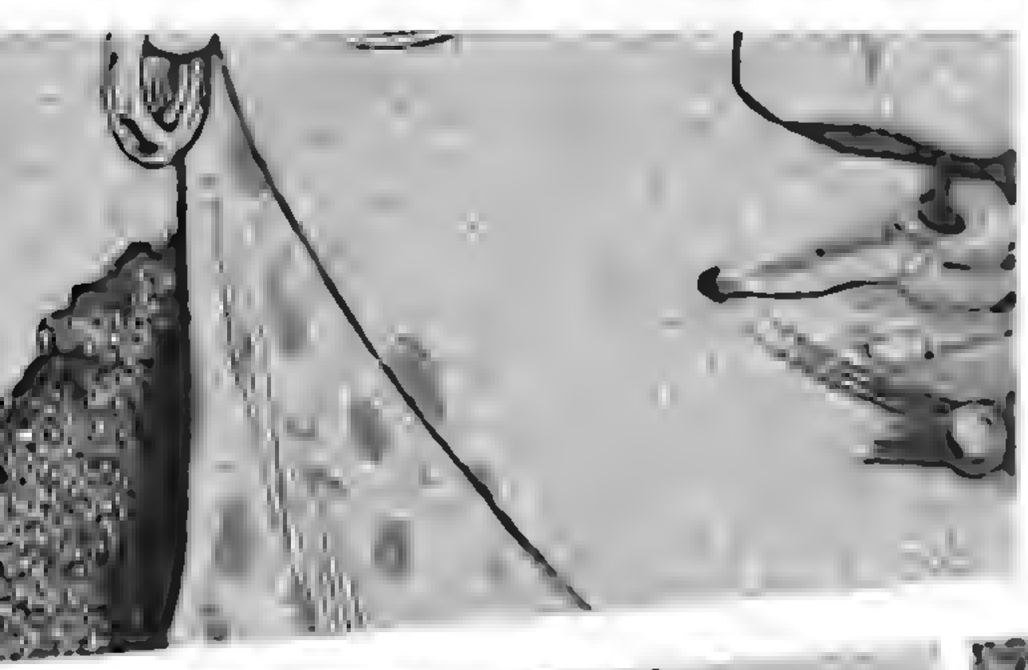







Eh—!


You're taking forever to make a move.











KLAK

GRAB

FLINCH

FLINCH

STAY STILL.

WHAT?

WH...

PSSH

WHAT IS IT NOW?!

GNG

GNG

GNG

GNG

GNG

GNG

IS THIS DAD-TANK MADE OF?

WHAT KIND OF MATERIAL ...

!

ﾋｺｵ...

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

UH... NAKOSHI-SAN?

.....?!

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

IT'S SO HARD!

IT...

NAKOSHI-SAN, STOP! I'M TICKLISH!

N...

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

ｸﾞﾘﾝ

GRIK!

!

GLRBL

WHUMP

AUGH! SHIT!

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TRYING TO DO?

POKE

.....!

NAKOSHI-SAN...

HA HA HA!

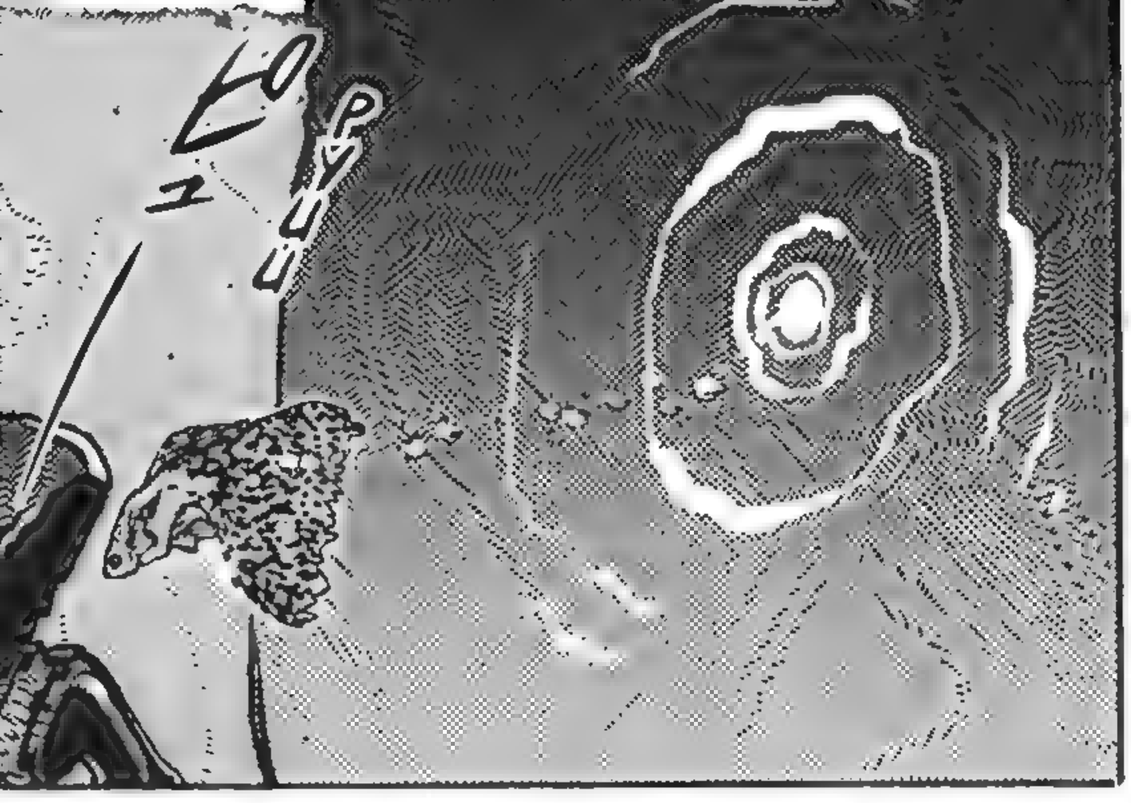
POKE

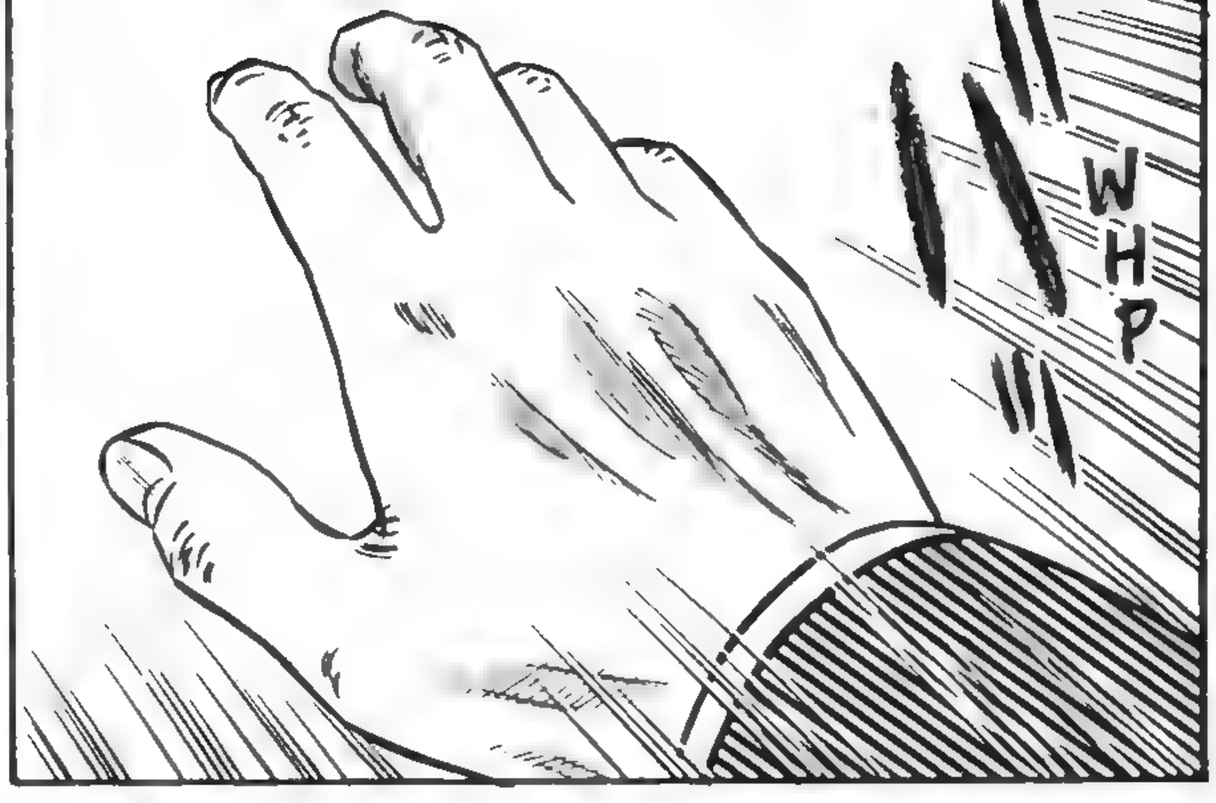
POKE

PRETTY SOLID, RIGHT? YOU'D BE SURPRISED HOW MUCH MUSCLE I'VE GOT UNDER THIS GOTHIC EXTERIOR!

.....

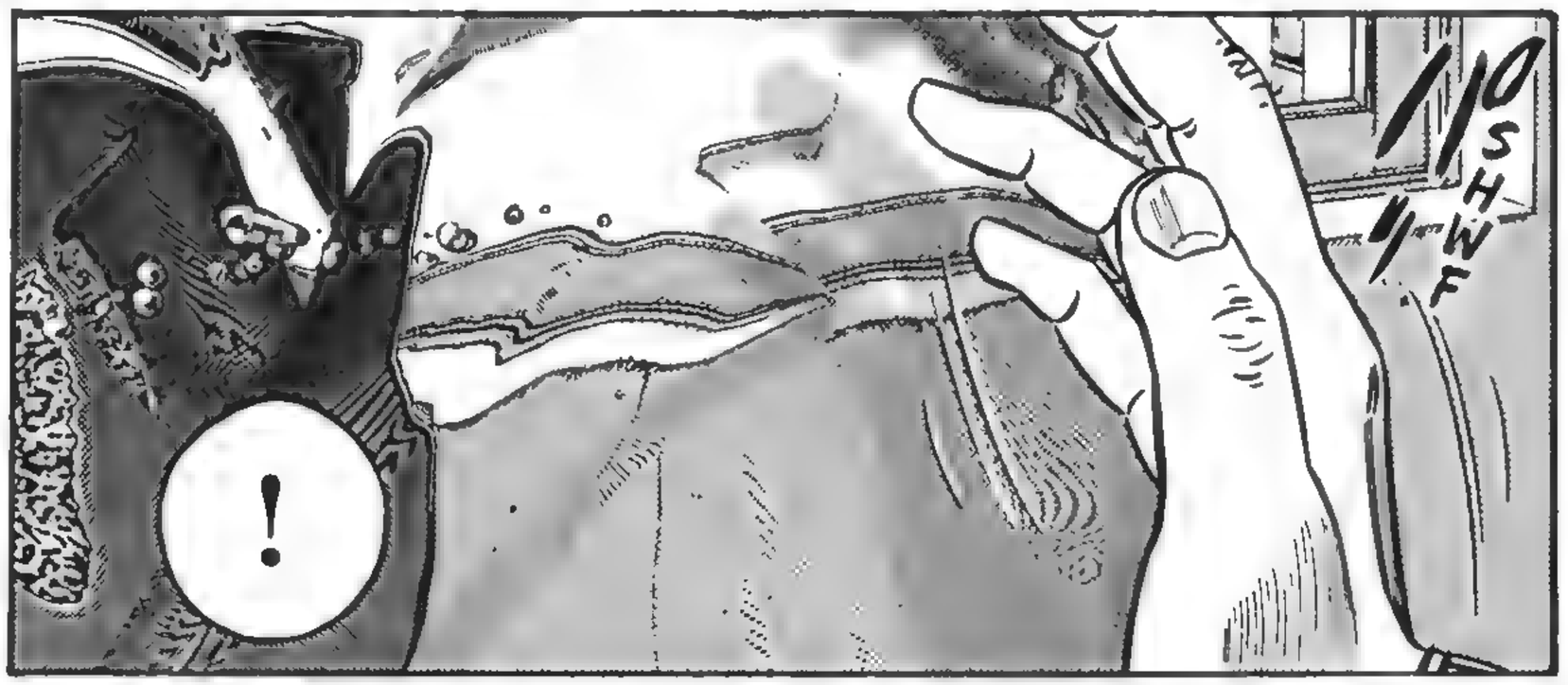
HA HA HA HA!

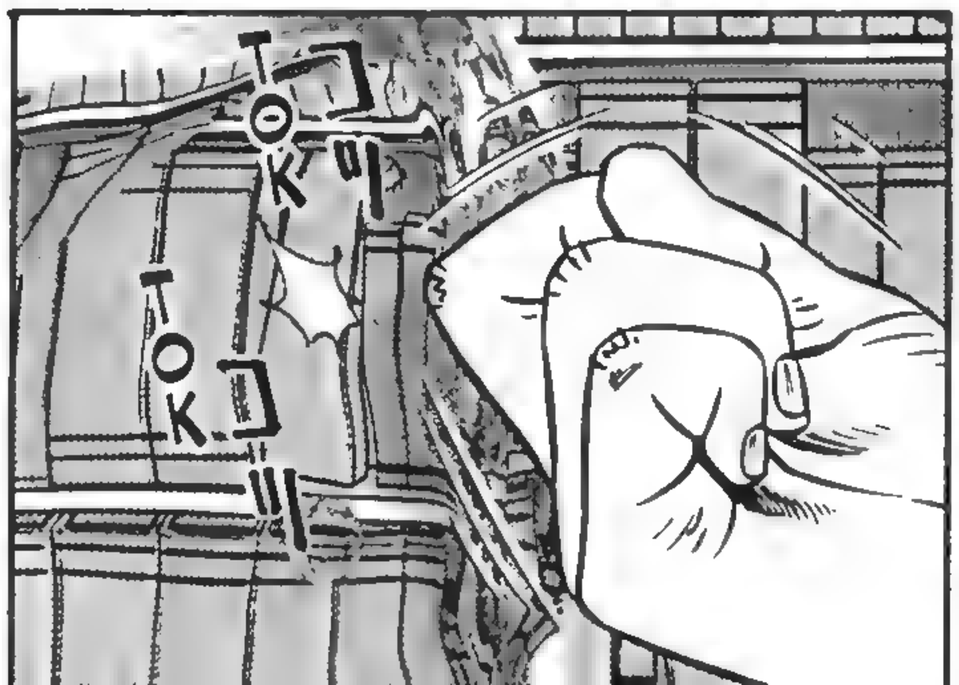

ピュッ


WHP

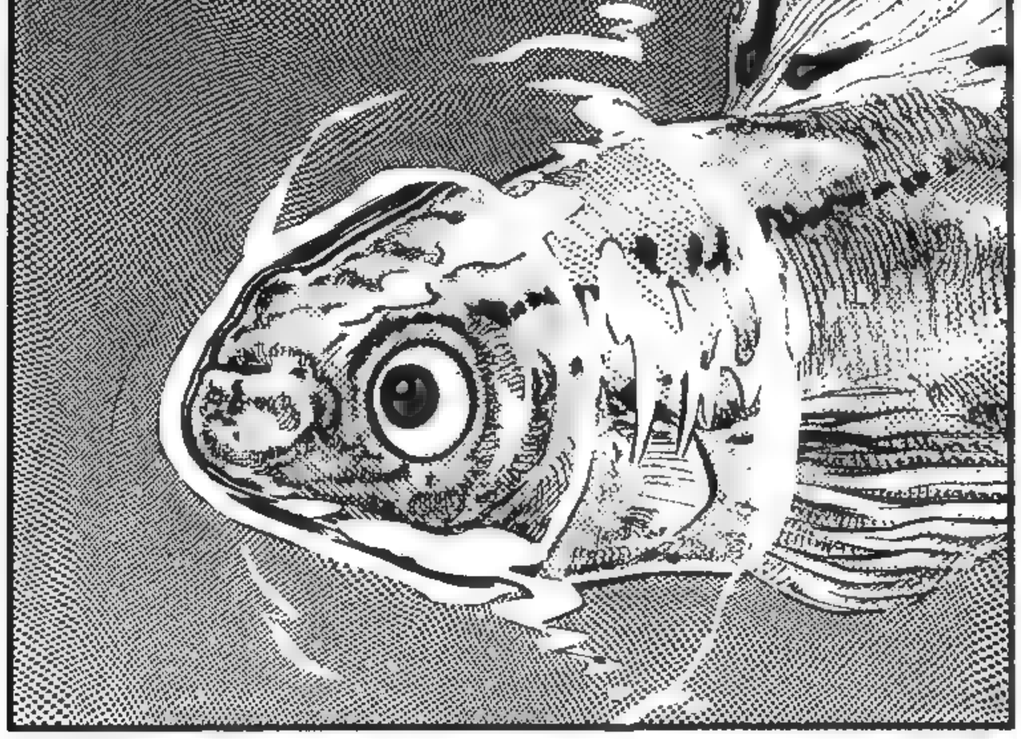

GNG


IT'S HARD AGAIN!


!
SHWF


TOK
TOK


.....?



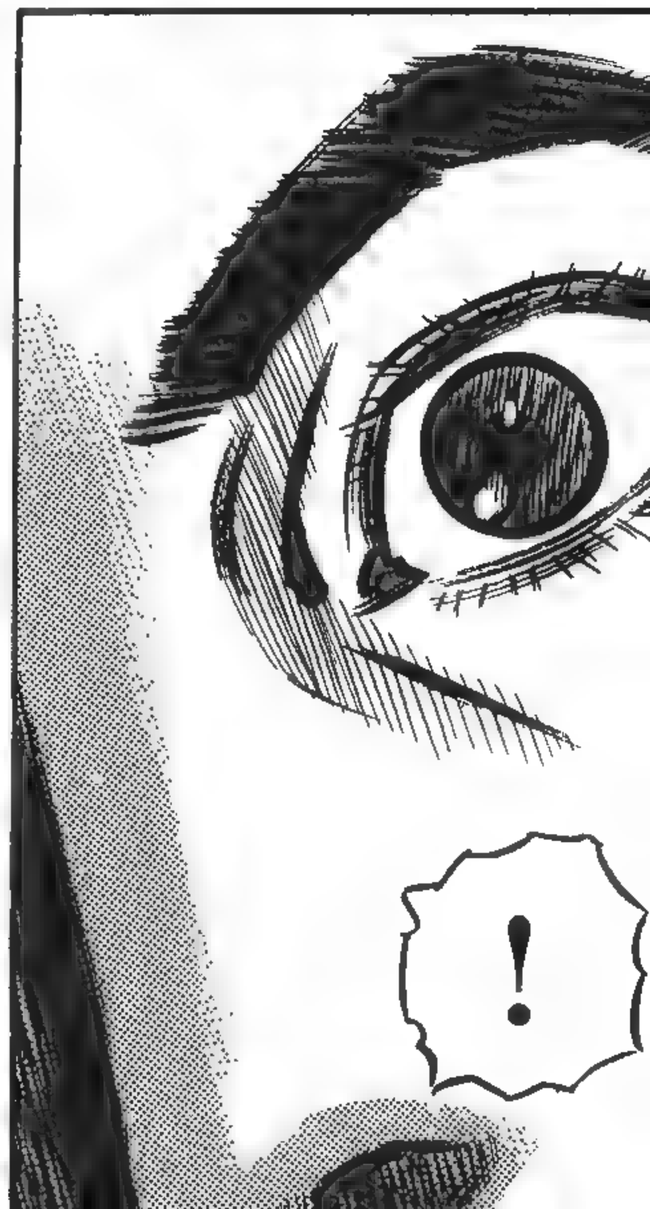

PUEK


.....?


KO
HUP


YOU CAN'T CHANGE IT AN IOTA FROM THE OUTSIDE.


WAIT. THIS TANK...


!

IT'S ONLY PERMEABLE FROM THE *INSIDE!*

ONLY *YOU...*

WHICH MEANS...

CAN DO ANYTHING TO AFFECT IT!!

GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP...

SHF...

.....

GRAB

HUH?

PULL

FWSHHHHHHH

STARE...

SHOOM

……

!?

……

SHF…

GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP GLP

PA-
KRIK

PA-
KRIK

PA-
KRIK

PA-
KRIK

PA-
KRIK

AUGH! THAT'S FREEZING!

PYUUU

PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP

JEEZ, YOU'RE SO FREAKING WEIRD.

DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP DRIP

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

DUDE, EW!

PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP



STARE

!

I REAL-IZED HOW STUPID IT ALL WAS, SO...

I ALREADY TOLD YOU THAT!

DID YOU RUN FROM 1775?

WHY...

ギギギ GNNNG

?!

SHUT UP. I'M NOT ASKING *YOU.*

WHY DID YOU RUN AWAY?

GLP GLP ...

STARE...

TO YOU.

FREEZE

!

NAKOSHI-SAN, WHO ARE YOU TALKING TO?

PA-KRIK

PA-KRIK

PUHK

PUHK

JAB

JAB

JAB

JAB

FWSH

WAS FROM THIS GUY HERE TRYING TO BREAK OUT FROM THE INSIDE!

I GET IT NOW!

!!

THAT RASH...

SHF...

Your right side...

is so pretty.

?!

SHUT UP

.....

GLRSH

VSHSH

VSHSH

VSHSH

UH, NAKOSHI-SAN...

THIS'S MOVED WAY PAST "WEIRD" AND RIGHT INTO "REPULSIVE" TERRITORY NOW.

.....

.....

SHUT UP. YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME TO TRY THIS ON YOU.

DID YOU RUN FROM 1775?

WHY...

BE HONEST.

I DON'T REALLY GET IT.

MAN, YOU'RE FIXATED ON THAT.

!

AFTER ALL, *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO PICKED 1775 OUT! REMEMBER?

CHOSE HER.

WE BOTH...

CUT THE SHIT.

YOU AND 1775...

ARE CARRYING THE EXACT SAME BURDEN. YOU'VE GOT TO BE!

WHAT DREW YOU TO 1775?

!!

GLUP

GOOO

.....

BUT THAT SAID...

SO, CONSIDERING MY OWN UPBRINGING, FINE. MAYBE OUR HOMUNCULI SHARE A COMMON THEME.

LOOK, NAKOSHI-SAN. 1775'S SITUATION CLEARLY INVOLVED SOME FORM OF PARENTAL FRICTION.

THE WAY I SEE IT, IT REALLY WAS PURELY PHYSICAL. SHE WAS ATTRACTIVE; NOTHING MORE, NOTHING LESS.

AFTER ALL...

SHE *WAS* AWFULLY PRETTY, WASN'T SHE?

THAT'S ALL.

!

Just look at her! You can't deny she's attractive.

I like that one.

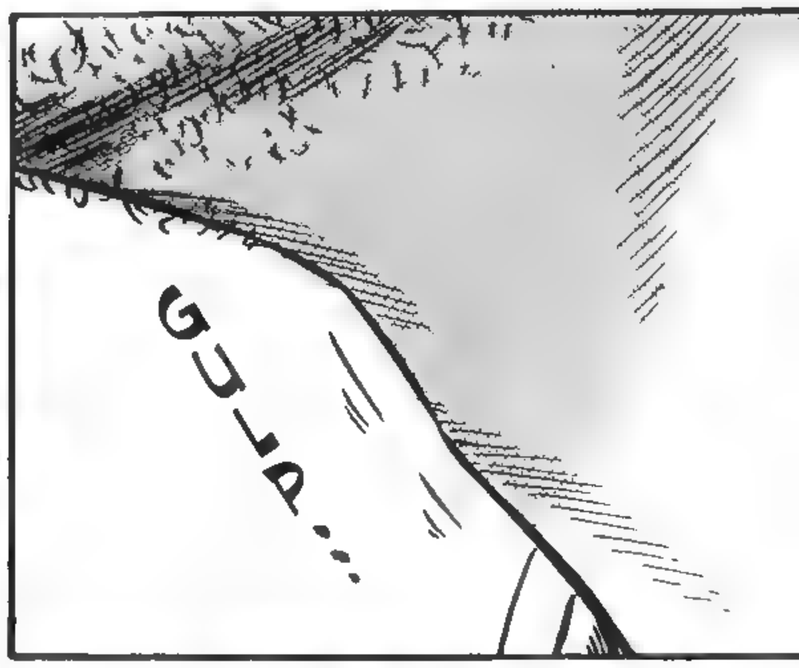
Beautiful creatures, aren't they...

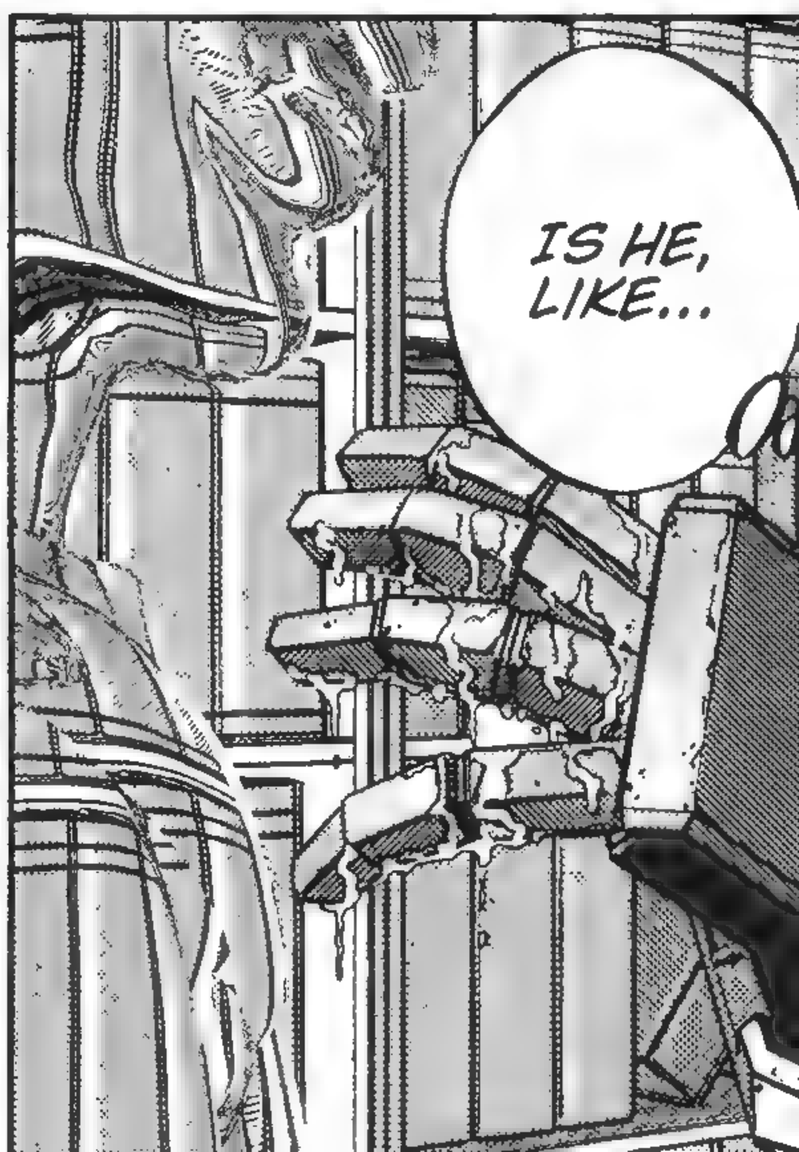
Such pretty fins...

WAIT. DOES HE...

WANT TO BE PRETTY?!







GLP
GLP
GLP

IF THIS GUY'S QUEER, THEN...

BUT...

GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP

DOES THAT... MEAN THAT I'M...?

.....?

FLINCH

TNK

TNK

YOU SAVING I'M--?! BUT I'M NOT...

.....

TNK

TNK

TNK

...THEN

HOLD ON.

WH... WHOA, WHOA.

BUT...

WHAT ARE YOU MUTTERING ABOUT NOW, NAKOSHI-SAN?

EVERY HOMUN-CULUS I SEE...

IS ME!

.....

YEAH?

LOOK, MAN...

MUTTER

BESIDES SEX, I MEAN. OBVIOUSLY.

YOU SAID YOU'RE DOWN TO TRY **ANYTHING**, RIGHT?

Y- YEAH?

UH.

SHF...

UMM...

DO I... REALLY HAVE TO...?

Huh?

You scared, cherry boy?

BLURBL

MURMUR

CHERRY BOY...

.....

!

GLUP GLP...

.....

HNG?

GLRP

A VIRGIN ...?

GLURSH

EXCUSE ME?!

A VIRGIN?

ARE YOU...

.....!

BLUP

I'M JUST ASKING. HAVE YOU EVER BEEN WITH A WOMAN?

GLUP
ゴポ

AS IF! I MIGHT BE GOTH, BUT I STILL GET LAID.

I'M *SUPER* POPULAR WITH WOMEN, TO BE FRANK.

WOW. SCHOOLYARD TAUNTS? THAT'S PRETTY LOW.

!

I'VE NEVER ONCE LACKED FOR COMPANY WITH THE FAIRER SEX.

!

I'M NOTHING LIKE *YOU*, NAKOSHI-SAN!

I GET PLENTY!

!

BA-DAP

I'M *SAYING* YOU'RE PROJECTING AGAIN.

PARDON?

.....

I'D BET *YOU'RE* THE ONE WHO'S GOT NO LUCK WITH THE LADIES.




SMP
?!
GRAB

HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!
HFF!

BEFORE YOU SAY SOMETHING YOU'LL REGRET.

HFF!

HFF!

HFF!

YOU'D BETTER SHUT YOUR MOUTH...

NOW DO AS YOU'RE TOLD, SHUT UP, AND SIT STILL.

.....

.....?

F!!O.

SHLRR

GNG GNG GNG

rr' rr' rr'

PLIP

PLIP

!.....

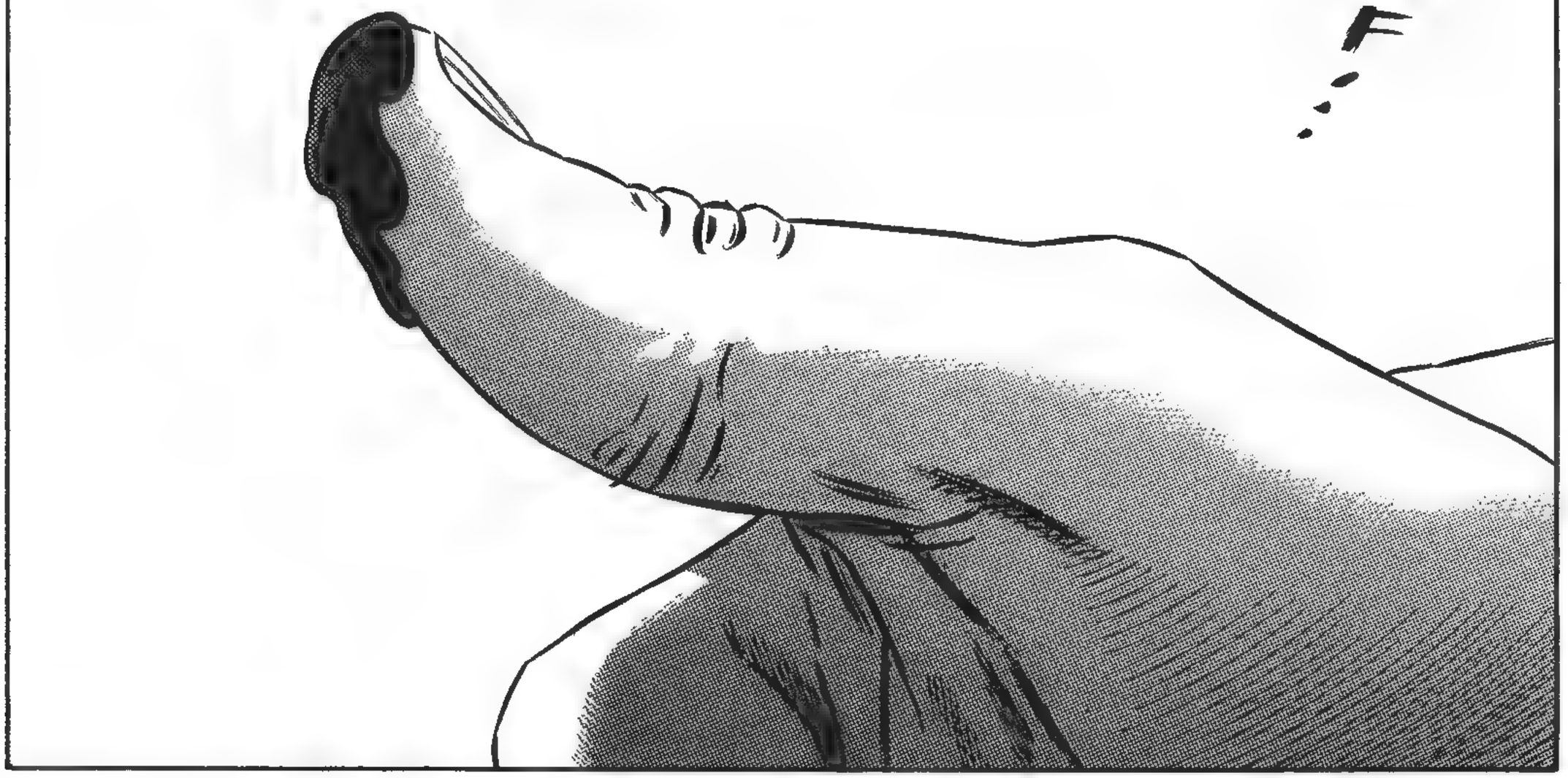
HFF!

HFF!

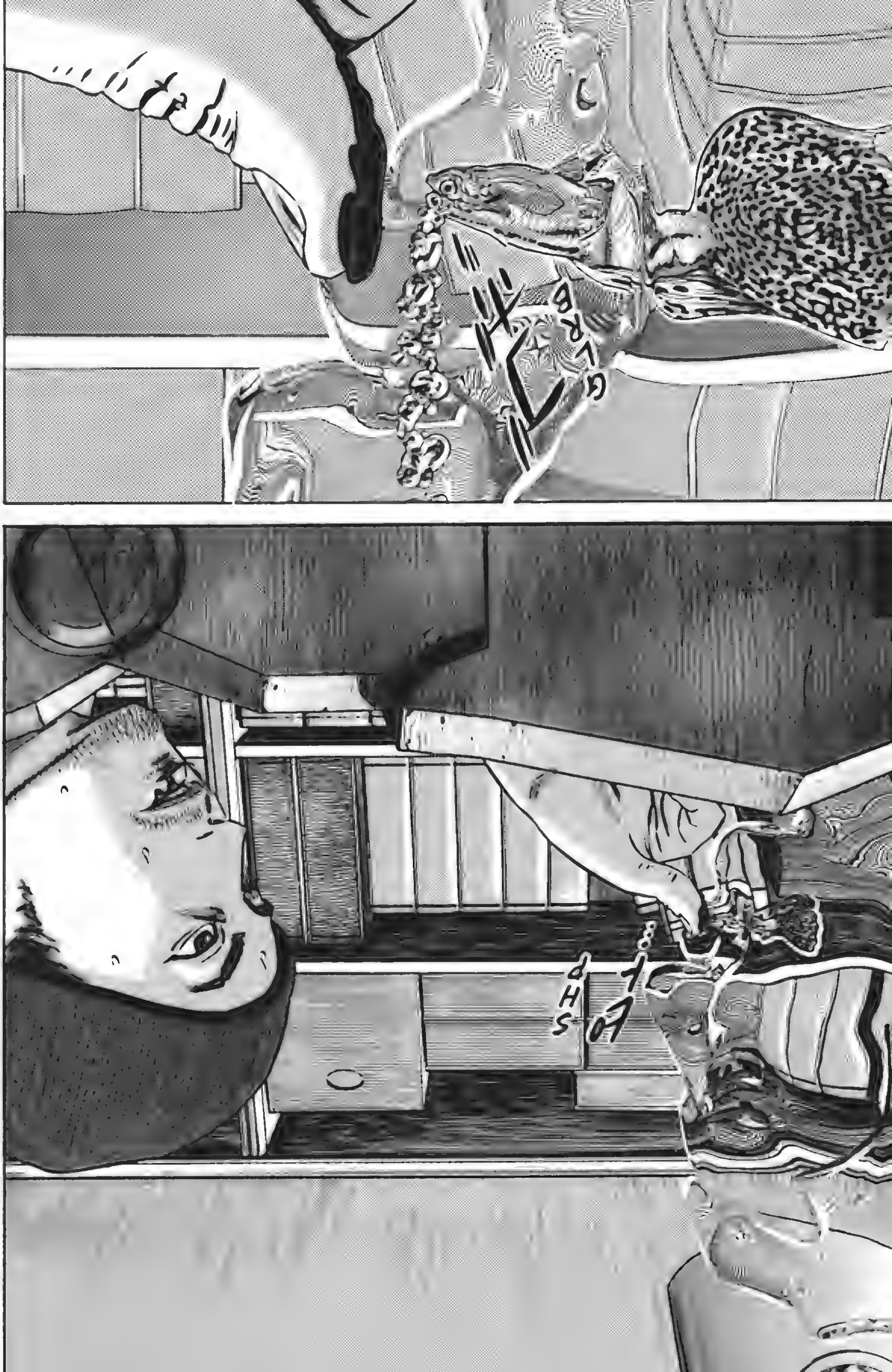
HFF!

SHRP

SHRP







SHIP

NAKOSHI-SAN...

DID YOU THINK I WOULDN'T NOTICE...

YOU'RE JUST COPYING 1775?



THE GUPPY MERGED WITH THE TANK'S LIPS!

.....

GAPE STARE

JUST DON'T KISS ME, OKAY?

GAPE IN GAPE IN

I SEE WHERE THIS IS GOING.

.....

BY THE WAY, HOW OLD WERE YOU...

BA-DMP

WHEN YOU HAD *YOUR* FIRST KISS?

YOU STRIKE ME AS A LATE BLOOMER. *REALLY* LATE.

YOU PIECE OF SHIT...

YOU STILL HAVEN'T, HAVE YOU?

OH, MAN. DON'T TELL ME.

YOU'VE NEVER KISSED *ANYONE!*


SNEER

HMPH.

.....!

THIS IS SO FUCKING STUPID.

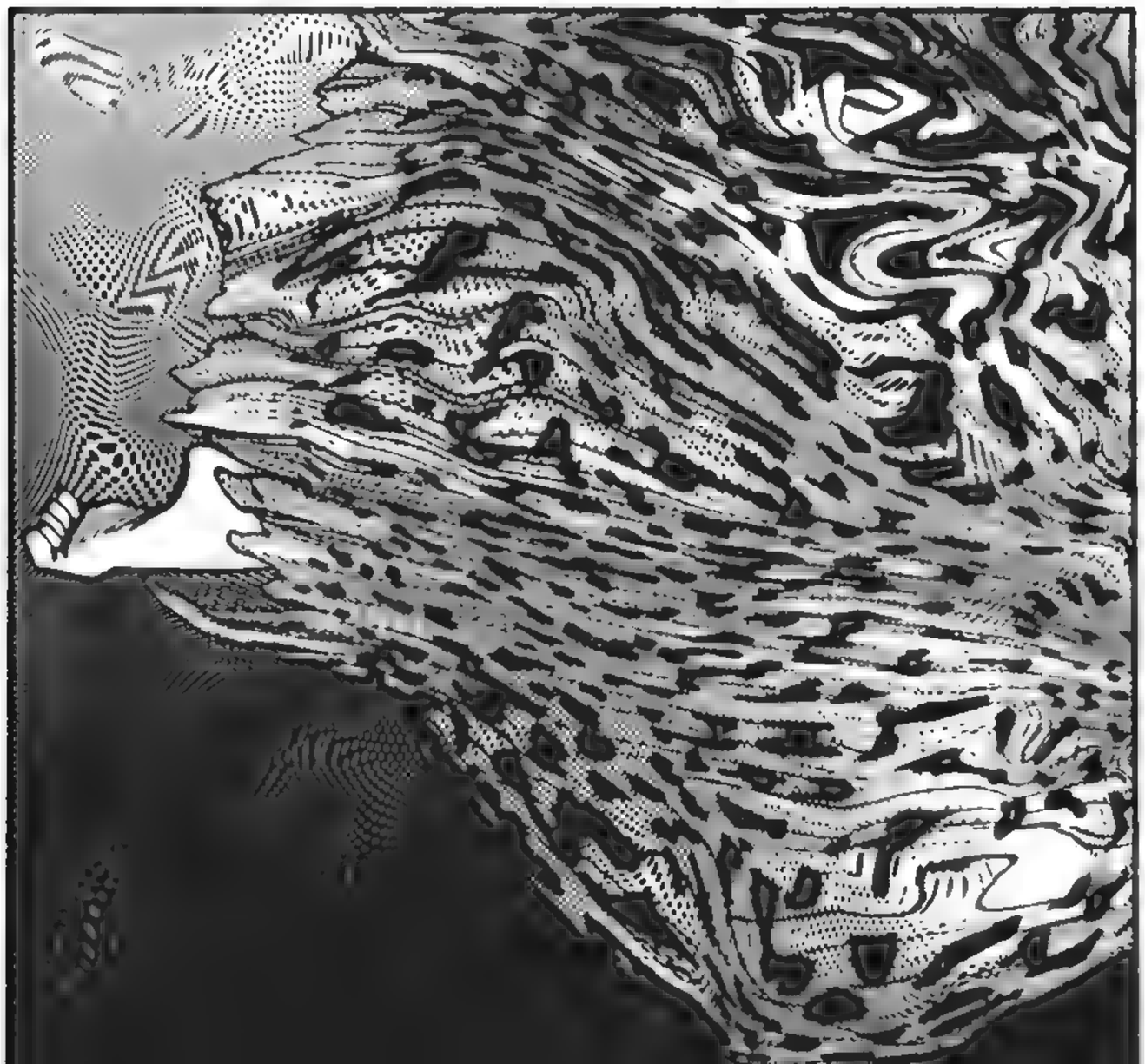
HA HA...

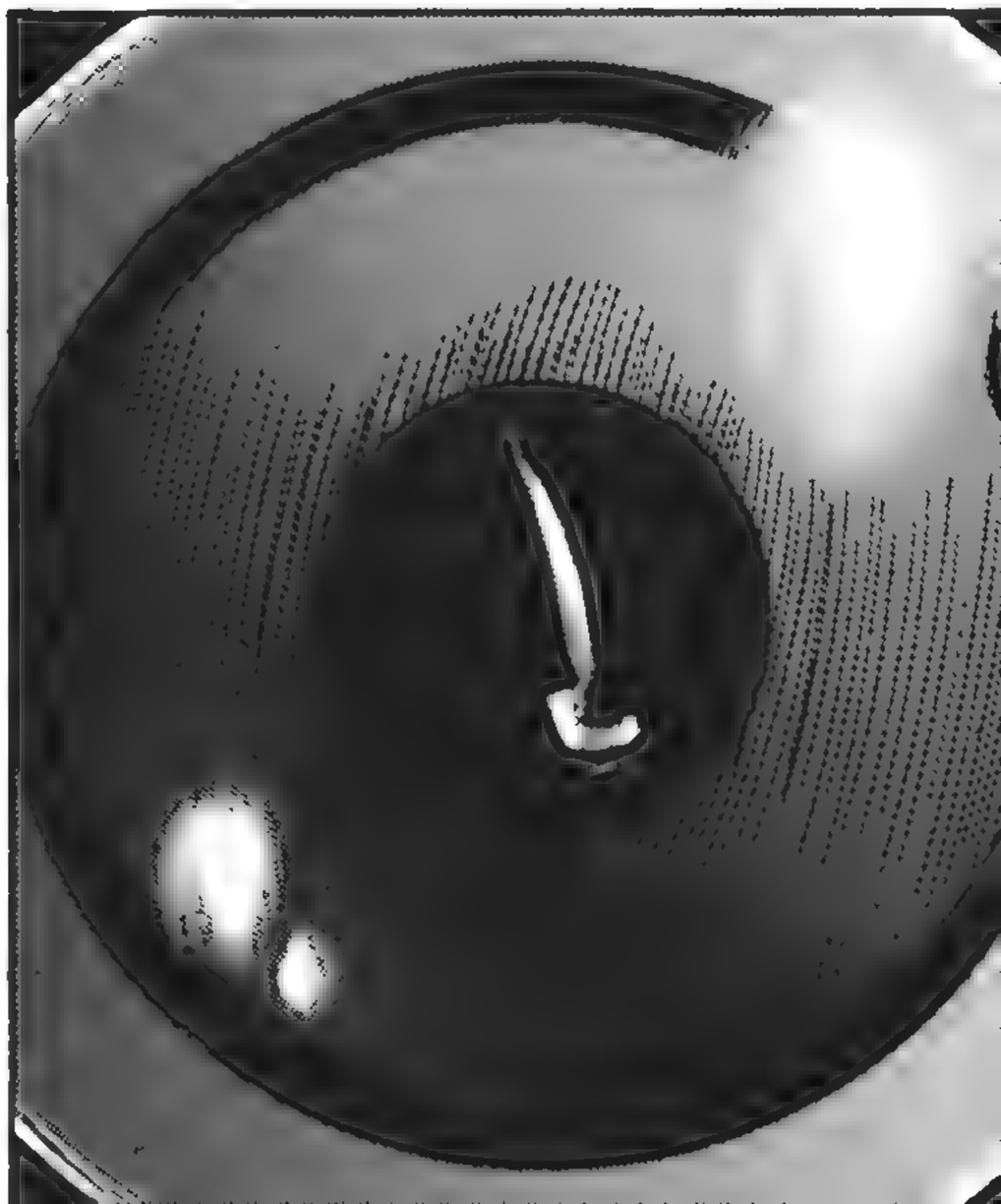

DMP
GRAB
?!
WHP


ナイス！









ぐすっ…

ぐしゃ

ぐしゃ

SHOVE

?!

GLUP
GLP...

TH...

THE FISH HAS A FACE?!

CH...

.....!

CHRIST, THAT'S GROSS.

HUH?

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

GLB GLB GLB GLB GLB GLB GLB GLB

F...
FEET?!

KRAK

ZUUN

GLB
BLB
BLB
BLB

!

BRRBL
BOOT

WHOA ...!

WWW

BLOOSH

THIS IS BAD!

TH...

BLURBL

Hideo Yamamoto

Born in 1968, in Saitama Prefecture.

Hideo Yamamoto is his real name.

Assistant experience: Kenshi Hirokane-sensei, Ikuko Kujirai-sensei.

Works: *SHEEP, Okama Hakusho, Voyeur, Ichi the Killer, Homunculus, HIKARI-MAN.*

Volume 6

GLURBL!!

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

TLRH

GRGL

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

NA...

NAKOSHI-SAN...

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

GLUB

GRGL

GRGL

BLRBL

BLRBL

BLRBL

BLRBL

IT HURTS...

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

IF...

IF THIS IS SOME KIND OF JOKE, IT'S NOT FUNNY!

.....

IF THIS WATER WON'T STOP WASHING AWAY THE COLORS THAT PROVE YOU'RE ALIVE IN THERE...

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

BA-DMP

THEN I'LL JUST HAVE TO *SUCK IT OUT!*

KA

NGH!

I SHOVE

FWHUMP

THUMP









WELL THAT WAS WEIRD.

WHAT WERE YOU EVEN TRYING TO DO? BREAK MY PATTERNS OR SOMETHING?

NAKOSHI-SAN...

ピシッ

ピシッ

ピシッ

ピシッ

ピシッ

ピシッ

GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
DLSH
DLSH
DLSH
DLSH
DLSH
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
PLIP
……

NAKOSHI-SAN...

!

DO YOU BELIEVE I'M SUFFERING FROM SOME GENDER-RELATED AILMENT? DYSPHORIA, MAYBE?

HOW COULD A HOMUNCULUS LIKE THIS *POSSIBLY* LEAD YOU TO THAT CONCLUSION? *HM?* WHAT'S THE THOUGHT PROCESS, EXACTLY?

See through container shaped like a Father figure

Inside is full to the brim with water.

PLUS

KOKUYO

JUST A LIE?

OR IS THIS SKETCH...

YOU'VE BEEN ACTING SO WEIRD ...

...

!

ゴゥ
BRBL

LITTLE BY LITTLE!

GRGL

THRSH...

THE FISH... IT'S... GROWING...

BRBL

?!

BLUB

THRSH

THRSH

GLP

GLP

GLP

WAIT, I SEE.

IN AN ATTEMPT TO STOP THE TANK FROM LOSING ANY MORE.

WITH EVERY DROP OF WATER LOST, HE GETS BIGGER...

HE'S TRYING TO SEAL THAT CRACK!

?!

ON SOME LEVEL, YOU KNOW THAT. DON'T YOU?

AND YOU CAN'T EXACTLY THROW STONES.

THRSH

THRSH

.....!

IF I WERE TO HAVE SOMETHING LIKE THAT... SO WOULD YOU.

SHWP

.....

BY THE BY, CAN YOU QUIT PARROTING 1775'S BEHAVIOR? TRY BEING MORE ORIGINAL.

'CAUSE, FRANKLY, YOU'RE *A PALE* IMITATION.

THEN *YOU'RE* LINKED TO HER TOO... AND ME TO YOU.

IF 1775 AND I ARE LINKED...

.....!

ALL THREE OF US ARE LINKED BY THE *SAME EXACT PROBLEM.*

IT'S NOT ONE SINGLE LINK.

IT'S A CHAIN!

!

?!

THE ISSUE THAT LINKS ME TO YOU...

IS COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE THAT LINKS ME TO THE GIRL!

IT'S THE SAME WITH THE GANG LEADER.

THAT'S HOW WE'RE CHAINED TOGETHER.

I THINK.

WE EACH HAVE OUR OWN STORIES AND ISSUES, WHICH ONLY PARTIALLY HAPPEN TO DOVETAIL WITH SOMEONE ELSE'S.

AS FOR YOU AND ME...

BY WHAT THE WORLD EXPECTS OF US.

THE GIRL AND I ARE LINKED BY SYMBOLS.

.....

!

HOLD ON A SEC.

Inside is full to

See through containe shaped like fathe (some times looks invisible)

I'M TRAPPED IN THIS SHAPE CREATED BY MY FATHER, BY MANUALS, AND BY SOCIAL NORMS.

THIS HO-MUNCULUS REPRESENTS THE SAME THINGS AS 1775'S.

THAT'S ME TOO!

.....?!

AREN'T LINKED BY SYMBOLS!

NAH. YOU TWO...

IS THAT SO? THEN WHAT, PRAY TELL, *DOES* LINK ME TO 1775? *HMMM?*

AND THE REASON YOU RAN AWAY?

THE REASON YOU CHOSE HER...

YOU REALLY CAN'T TELL?

THOUGHT SHE WAS PRETTY. THAT'S ALL.

I JUST...

HOW MANY TIMES DO I HAVE TO SAY IT?

.....

DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

WHAT?

MUTTER...

SEE? YOU *DO* GET IT!

WHO CARES ABOUT THAT?

LOOK, FORGET ABOUT 1775. THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOU AND *HER*.

WHAT?!

HUH?

RIGHT NOW, I'M NOT INTERESTED IN ANYONE BUT THE PERSON RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME--*YOU!*

I SAY THAT BECAUSE I ONLY CARE ABOUT *MYSELF!*

YOU DON'T GET IT.

UGH. SPARE ME.

.....

YOU'RE HIDING A MISSING PIECE...

FROM *MY* JIGSAW PUZZLE. AND I WANT TO KNOW WHAT IT IS!

!

SO COUGH IT UP!

GNG

GNG

GNG

WHY DID YOU *REALLY* CHOOSE ME?

!

CHOOSE *MINE*?!

DID YOU...

WHY...

WHEN YOU WERE LOOKING FOR A SKULL TO DRILL THROUGH...

BRBL...

GLUB

DID YOU DECIDE TO PERFORM THAT SURGERY IN THE FIRST PLACE?

AND WHY...

WHAT WAS IT FOR?

THAT WAS JUST ONE OF SEVERAL DIFFERENT ANGLES I'M CONSIDERING IN MY EFFORTS TO STUDY HUMANITY.

STOP MAKING ME REPEAT MYSELF!

FWIP

.....

SCIENTIFICALLY SPEAKING, YOUR CURRENT SYMPTOMS ARE MERELY...

WHICH IS PRECISELY WHY...

!

コツ TOK

コツ TOK

?

SAY THAT TO THIS GUY'S FACE.

ANSWER MY QUESTION...

WHAT?

WHILE LOOKING AT THIS FELLA HERE.

TOK

TOK

.....

OH, COME ON.

NOW YOU'RE JUST COPYING WHAT *I* DID TO *HER!*

HOWEVER, THAT DOESN'T GUARANTEE YOU'LL SEE ANY PARTICULAR SHIFT IN EXPRESSION IN MY...

SO I GET HOW YOU'D THINK KEEPING MY ATTENTION ON THE **RIGHT** WOULD YIELD RESULTS.

THE CONSCIOUS SIDE OF MY BODY IS ON THE **LEFT**, OPPOSITE TO 1775'S...

I DO SEE THE LOGIC.

FWIP

!

I'LL FWIP

TOK

TOK

TOK

DON'T YOU *DARE*...

LOOK AWAY FROM HIM AGAIN!

STARE...

STARE

JUST KEEP STARING YOURSELF IN THE FACE LIKE THAT.

MOTHER

ガ！

THAT'S RIGHT.

ガバッ

SWIP

TOK

TOK

?!

フィン

FWIP

ONLY WEIRDOS MUTTER TO THEM-SELVES, Y'KNOW.

YOU HAVE TO QUIT DOING THAT.

GLB

BLB

BLB

BLB

BLB

BLB

BLB

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

GLUB

?!

ドクン

ドクン

KRK

コキ…

!

TP
TP
TP
TP
TP
TP
TP
TP

STARE

GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP
GLP

GLP
GLP
GLP

HIS LEG'S JITTERING AGAIN.

.....

TP
TP
TP
TP
TP
TP

DLSH
DLSH
DLSH
DLSH
DLSH

TP

TP

TP

TP

TP

TP

TP

……

GLP

GLP

GLP

GLP

GLP

……

WHY DID YOU REALLY CHOOSE ME?

ANSWER ME.

GLARE

ｷﾛｯ

HALT.

UGH～～～

GOD, YOU'RE SO AN-NOYING!

TP TP TP TP TP

ｺﾞｷ KRK

FINE. WANNA DO THIS? THEN LET ME ASK *YOU* SOMETHING.

KRAK

OUT OF ALL THE SPOTS TO PARK YOUR HOBO-MOBILE, WHY *THERE*?

!

LIAR!

"SOUL SEARCHING," YOU SAID. AS IF A PARKING SPOT BETWEEN THE RITZ AND HOBOLAND IS WHERE YOU'LL FIND YOUR *SOUL.*

WHY WOULD SOME HOTSHOT BANKER WHO USED TO DRIVE A *PORSCHE...*

!!

BA-DMP

.....

BE LIVING OUT OF A DILAPIDATED RUST BUCKET, BARELY ABLE TO AFFORD TO FILL THE TANK?!

I NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT MY PAST. HOW...?

I...

LET'S JUST SAY ONE CAN DIG UP *PLENTY* WITH A LICENSE PLATE NUMBER.

AND THAT *FACE*...

YOU DICK.

BULGE

WHEN *WAS* THE PLASTIC SURGERY, ANYWAY?

.....

OH, GREAT.

YOU KNOW ABOUT *THAT* TOO?

I'VE KNOWN YOU'VE BEEN UNDER THE KNIFE SINCE I FIRST RECORDED YOU SLEEPING IN YOUR CAR.

I MAY BE YOUNG, BUT I'M STILL A DOCTOR.

OF COURSE I DO!

AND IT WASN'T JUST A SUBTLE NIP AND TUCK, WAS IT?

YOUR CHIN...

YOUR TEETH...

YOUR NOSE...

YOUR EYES...

I BET THERE'S NOT A SINGLE FEATURE YOU HAVEN'T SNIPPED OFF, SLAPPED ON, OR SHIFTED.

MAKES ME WONDER, NAKOSHI-SAN... WHAT DO YOU *REALLY* LOOK LIKE?



HOW SHOULD I KNOW?

H...

IT'S BEEN SO LONG...

EVEN I...

DON'T REMEMBER.

YOU CAN'T REMEMBER WHAT YOUR REAL FACE LOOKED LIKE?! *HA HA HA!*

HA!

YOU *FORGOT*?! SERIOUSLY?!

TO WANT TO LITERALLY FORGET YOUR OWN *FACE?*

HOW UGLY WOULD YOU HAVE TO BE...

GLADIATRE...

.....

BUT TO BE FAIR... THAT'S PRETTY ON-BRAND FOR YOU.

ALL YOU KNOW HOW TO DO IS *LIE!*

.....

YOU LIVE YOUR LIFE COWERING BEHIND THOSE LIES TO PROTECT YOURSELF. JUST LIKE HOW YOU HID FROM YOUR TRUE FACE.

YOUR *IDENTITY.*

YOUR SOCIAL STATUS.

YOUR WOMEN.

YOUR MONEY.

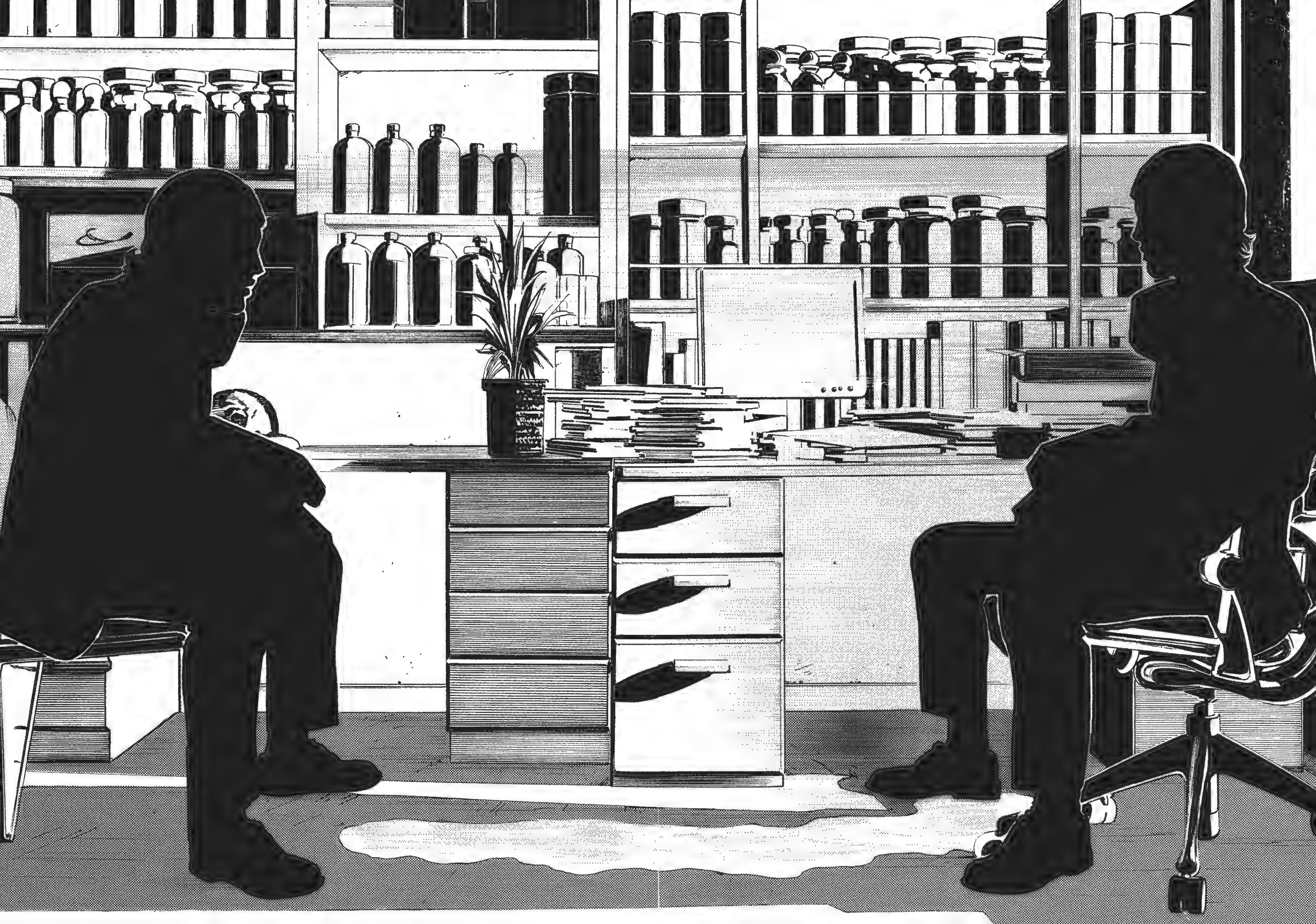
THAT PLASTIC MASK IS A LIE.

LIES...

LIES...

YOU'RE NOTHING BUT *LIES.*





EXCUSE ME?!

TELL ME, NAKOSHI-SAN. WHEN WAS YOUR FIRST TIME?

.....

WHEN'D YOU LOSE IT?

COME ON.

YOUR V-CARD! DON'T BE SHY!

?!.....

HEH HEH HEH!

OOF. I GET IT NOW.

WHEN I WAS NINETEEN.

.....!

GNG GNG...

LEMME GUESS. IT WAS RIGHT AFTER YOUR SURGERY, WASN'T IT? NO WOMAN WOULD GET *CLOSE* BEFORE THAT.

A YOUNG COUNTRY BUMPKIN LEAVES HIS HOMETOWN TO STUDY IN TOKYO, AND DECIDES TO USE THE MOVE AS A CHANCE TO COMPLETELY REINVENT HIMSELF... RIGHT DOWN TO HIS FACE. AM I RIGHT?

NINETEEN... I CAN SEE IT NOW.

I GUESS I AM.

.....

YOU WANTED TO BE REBORN, RIGHT?

.....

THAT'S NOT IT, IS IT?

WAS YOUR FACE NOTABLY DISFIG-URED?

OR PERHAPS SOME SORT OF TRAUMA MADE YOU LOATHE IT?

.....!

YOU WERE *NORMAL!* UGLY, SURE, SPURNED BY THE LADIES, BUT SO ARE A BILLION OTHER GUYS.

BUT *YOU* LET YOUR NORMAL-ASS INSECURITIES *CONSUME YOU!*

I BET YOU'D STARE INTO THE MIRROR OR SOMETHING EVERY DAY, THINKING, "THIS ISN'T THE REAL ME"...

STUFFED YOUR *WALLET* WITH THEM...

TURNED YOUR OWN *FACE* INTO ONE.

SO YOU FILLED YOUR LIFE WITH LIES.

UNTIL THAT WAS YOUR ENTIRE LIFE. LIES, LIES, ***LIES.***

CLIMBED THE *CORPORATE LADDER* OF THEM...

GOT INTO *BED* WITH THEM...

IT GOT A LITTLE HARDER TO SEE. UNTIL...

BUT WITH EVERY LAYER...

THEM LIES GOT SO DERN THICK, YOU DONE LOST SIGHT'A WHO YOU *WAS!!*

?!



WANTED T'SHUCK 'EM OFF...

YOU WAS SUFFOCATIN' IN YER OWN WEB A'FALSEHOODS.

SO YOU COULD BREATHE AGAIN. BE *FREE.*

WHAT... IN THE...?

CURL UP LIKE A FETUS, GO T'SLEEP. TRY AGEEN T'MORROW.

WANTED T'SWEEP IT *ALL* UNDER TH'RUG, *EH?*

SO YA DITCHED EVERY LIE YA COULD. THE MONEY, THE GIRLS. *ALL* THAT SHIT.

AN' Y' FOUND YERSELF STUCK HALFWAY 'TWEEN TH'PARK 'N' THAT THERE HOTEL.

.....

AIN'T *THAT* A KNEE SLAPPER?

.....?!

WHAT THE HELL'RE YOU EVEN *AFTER*, BOY?

.....

I *SAID*, WHAT THE **HELL'RE** YOU TRYIN' *T'DO*?!

SH...

TSK!

ACTIN' ALL HIGH'N' MIGHTY. BUT YER STILL STUCK W'THAT **FAKE FACE.**

SH...
UT...
UP...

Inside is full to the brim with water.

See-through container shaped like father (sometimes looks invisible).

not heels.

YA GOT BATS IN THE BELFRY, BOY! OUGHTA FOCUS ON CLEARIN' 'EM OUT, 'STEADA SEWIN' UP YER EYE AN' DIVIN' EVEN FURTHER INTO YER OWN **PSYCHOSIS.**

ALL THIS BULLSHIT 'BOUT THE DISTORTIONS OF THE MIND MANIFESTIN' AS MONSTERS, WITH ALL OF 'EM BEIN' A REFLECTION OF *YERSELF...*

.....

YOU'D GIVE YER LEFT NUT FER A CLUE LIKE THAT, HUH?

YER THINKIN', "MAYBE IF I STARE HARD ENOUGH AT THESE CRITTERS, I'LL FIND SOME CLUE TO WHO I AM..."

I KNOW THAT.

TOUGH SHIT, LUGHEAD. THEY'RE *DELUSIONS.*

YOU AIN'T GONNA FIND *NUTHIN'.*

FINE. TELL YA WHAT.

I'LL TAKE A GANDER FOR YA.

EXCUSE ME...?

YOU DON'T KNOW *SHIT!*

?!

AT *YOUR* HOMUNCULUS!

SHF...

D...

PRESS..

DON'T ...!

STARE...



STARE...

...

HOOOO-EEY...

DON'T LOOK ...!!

...?!

UGLY MOTHER, AIN'TCHA?

YOU ARE...

FRIED SHRIMP. A REAL UGLY HUNK OF IT.

FR...

FRIED SHRIMP ...?

BATTER ...

OF LIES...?

YEAH. A NASTY LI'L BUG SLATHERED IN A THICK BATTER'A LIES 'N' CHUCKED ON A FIRE.

BUT HERE AN' THERE, IT STILL CLINGS TO YA. THAT RANCID, STINKIN' BATTER...

NOW THATCHA DONE YER BEST T'STRIP THEM LIES AWAY, THE BATTER'S STARTIN' T'PEEL OFF...

IT'S ON YER FACE LIKE *GLUE!*

.....!

WHA ...?!

AN' IT'S SO... SO...

UGLY!!

.....

AND THE *REAL* KICKER...

!

YOU SAID YER LEFT ARM IS ROBOTIC 'N' YER LEFT LEG IS MADE'A SAND, RIGHT?

EVEN *THOSE* THINGS...

ARE LIES!

?!

.....?

WHAT... DO YOU...?

YOU AIN'T EVEN HONEST TO YER OWN BRAIN ABOUT YER OWN DAMN HALLUCINATIONS.

IT'S ALMOST SAD.

TH...

THAT'S NOT TRUE...

I *MEAN*, YER STILL LYIN'!

YER LYIN' TO *YERSELF!*

.....?

YER SKEPTICISM'S AIMED THE WRONG WAY, BOY. IT'S NOT THAT YA CAN'T TRUST *OTHERS...*



YA CAN'T TRUST YERSELF !!

!!

?!

GRAK...

N...

NO... DON'T...!

LEEET'S SEE...

.....

HERE. LEMME GET A BETTER LOOK ATCHA.

LURCH

STAY BACK...!

BLRSH

BLRSH

LET'S TAKE A GANDER.

D...

DON'T LOOK AT ME!!

THE HELL'RE YOU DOIN', BOY?!

WH...

WHOA!

?!

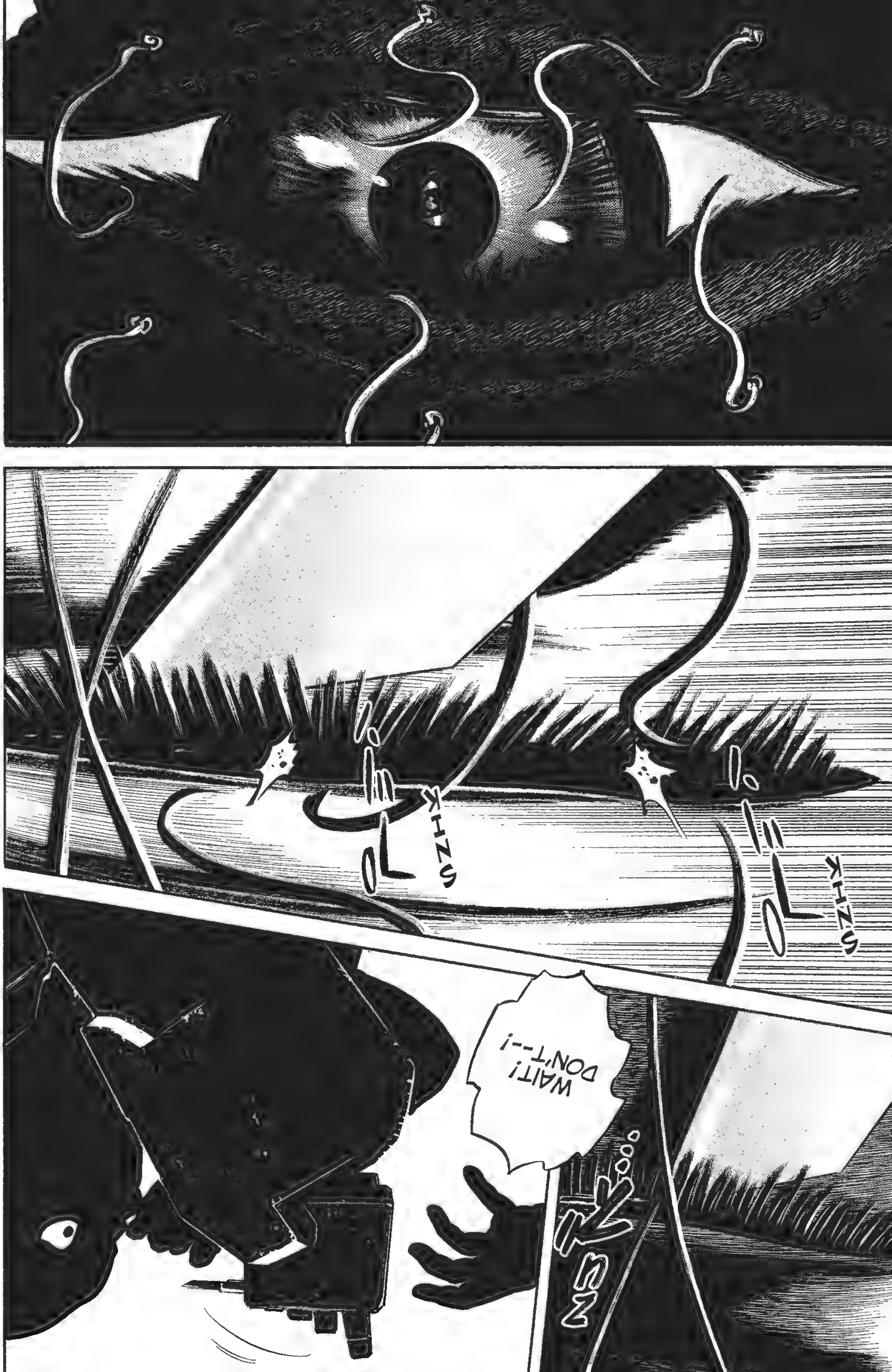
KLIK

KLIK

KLIK

KLIK

KLIK


WAIT! DON'T!!
ZUKI
ZUKI
ZUKI



NAKOSHI-SAN...

WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING?

YOU COULD'VE HURT YOURSELF!


SQUEEEEE
HUH?

HOOH...

WHA...?

NAKOSHI-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU...?!

THANK GOD...

.....

.....

PAT

PAT

I HAD NO IDEA IT WOULD FREAK YOU OUT THIS MUCH.

I'M SORRY. I WENT A BIT OVERBOARD. SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID ALL THAT.

I...

PAT

PAT

PAT

SO YOU CAN SEE HOMUNCULI TOO?

OF COURSE NOT! THEY ONLY EXIST IN *YOUR* BRAIN!

O...

HUH?

NOT *LITERALLY.* THE IMAGE JUST POPPED INTO MY HEAD.

UH, YEAH, BUT LIKE...

BUT YOU SAID...

I LOOKED LIKE A **SHRIMP.**

THAT'S ALL A HOMUNCULUS IS.

HUH?

THAT'S A HOMUNCU-LUS.

UH, THAT SEEMS...

LIKE A BIT OF A STRETCH...

YOU CAN SEE THEM TOO!

THAT RANDOM MENTAL IMAGE THAT JUST APPEARS...

IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE SEEING IT IN THE WORLD OR IN YOUR BRAIN.

YOU CAN SEE HOMUNCULI!

THIS IS ABSURD.

TH...

JUST REMEMBER. WHATEVER I MAY LOOK LIKE TO YOU...

THAT'S *YOUR* DISTORTION, TOO.

YOU WERE ACTUALLY LECTURING *YOURSELF?*

CAN'T YOU SEE THAT THE WHOLE TIME YOU WERE MONOLOGUING AT ME...

.....?

.....!!

BUT WE'RE NOT *EXACTLY* THE SAME.

WE'RE **MIRRORS.** SAME ISSUES...

BUT ALL THE DETAILS ARE REVERSED!

REVERSED ...?

.....

PIRO RO RO RO RO

WAH!!

PIRO RO RO RO RO

PIRO RO RO RO RO

Call

Dad

Call

IT...

!

PIRO RO RO RO RO

TH... THAT'S MY PHONE.

IT'S MY FATHER...

PLNK

SO WHERE ARE WE HEADED?

THE HOSPITAL.

?!

WON'T YOU BE COLD ON THAT BIKE?

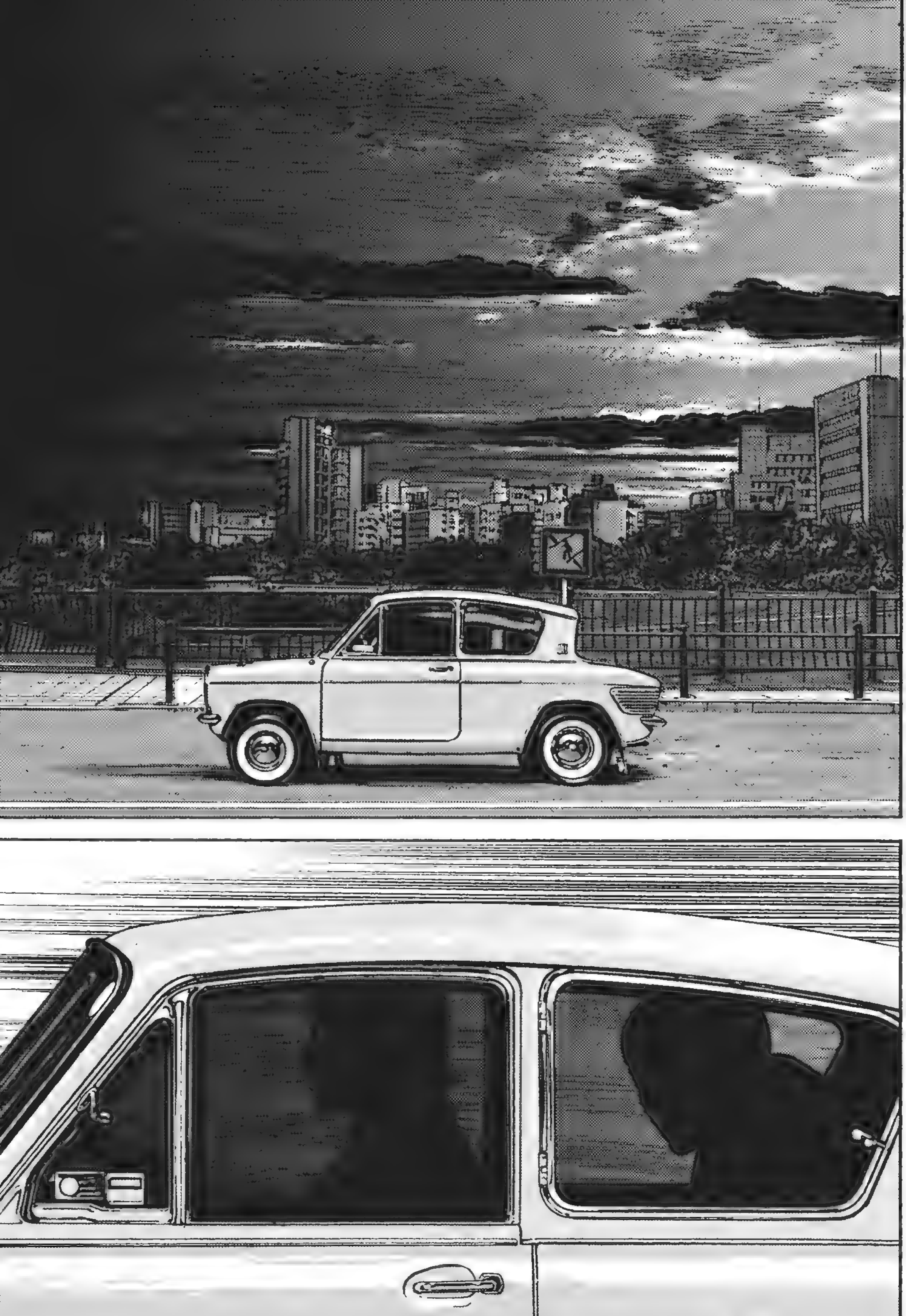
.....!

HOP IN. I'LL DRIVE YOU.

I THOUGHT YOU HAD A STRICT "NO RIDES" POLICY FOR OTHER PEOPLE?

YOU'RE NOT AN "OTHER" ANYMORE.

HMPH……



YOU DIDN'T HAVE TO SIT IN THE BACK, YOU KNOW.

READY?

I'VE, *UH*... GOTTA GET READY.

YEAH, I DID.

RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

FWMP!!

LESPORTSAC

TWIST TWIST...

TING !

TING !

FWP

FWP

PA-SHK

J" KLINK

J" KLINK

SH

P

SHRIP...

.....?

SHHP

SHP

SHHH

FWP...

FWIP

SHIP

FWUMP

!!

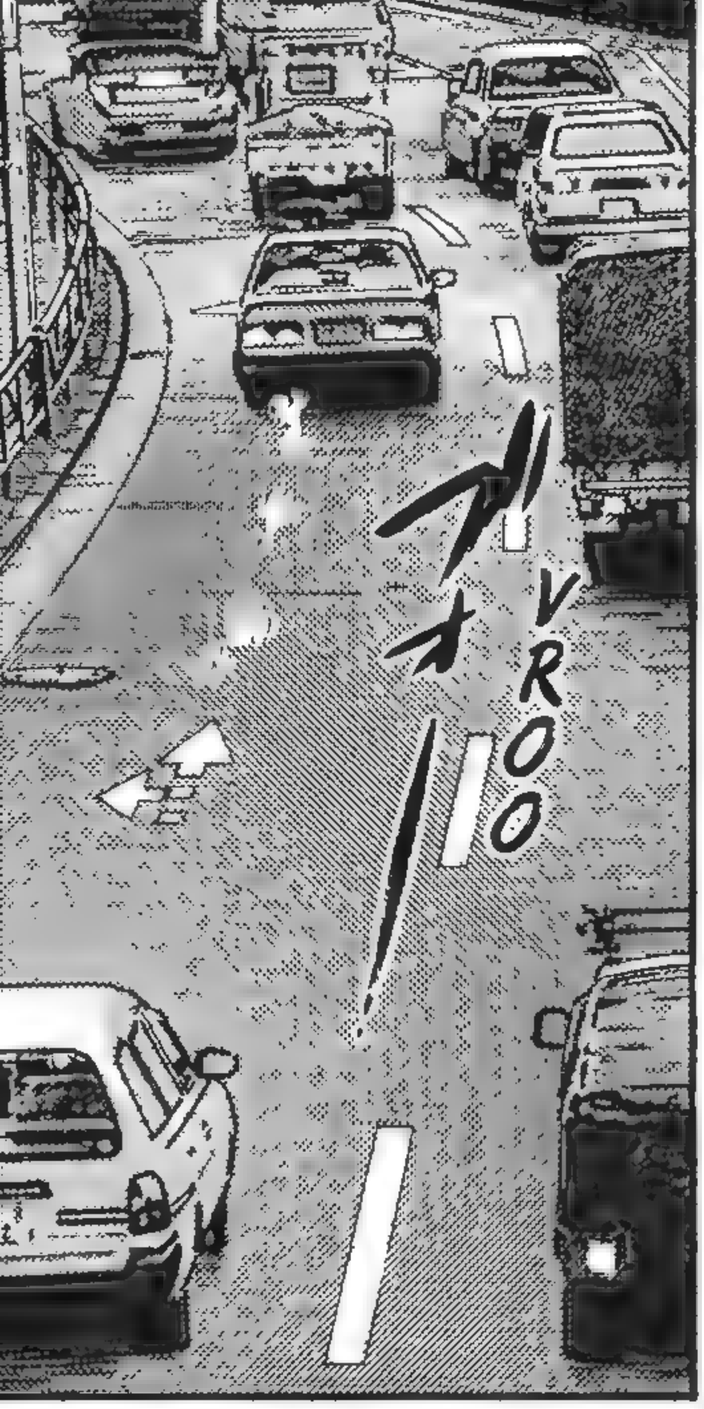
WH...

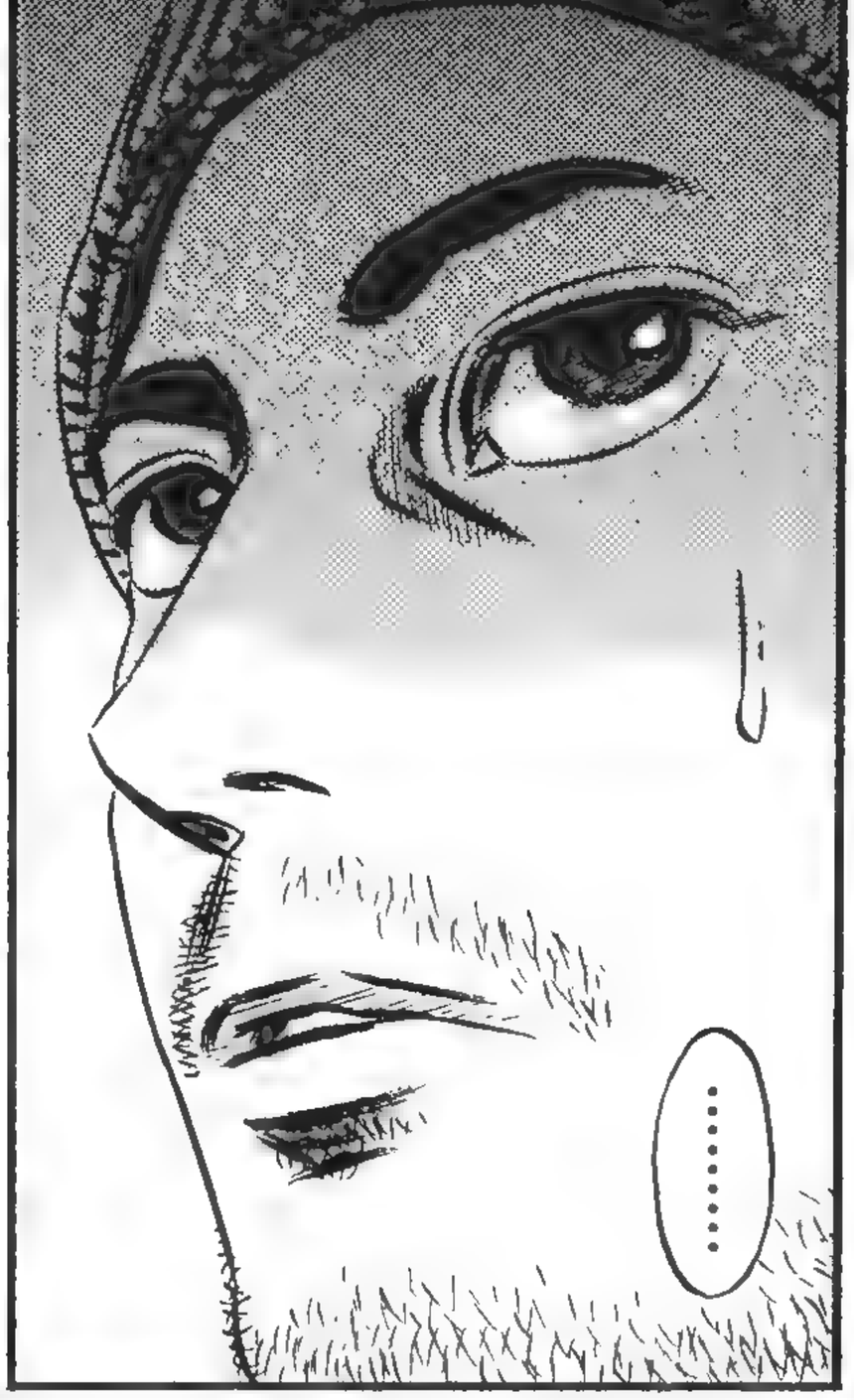
WHAT THE HELL...?

PCHK

HEH.

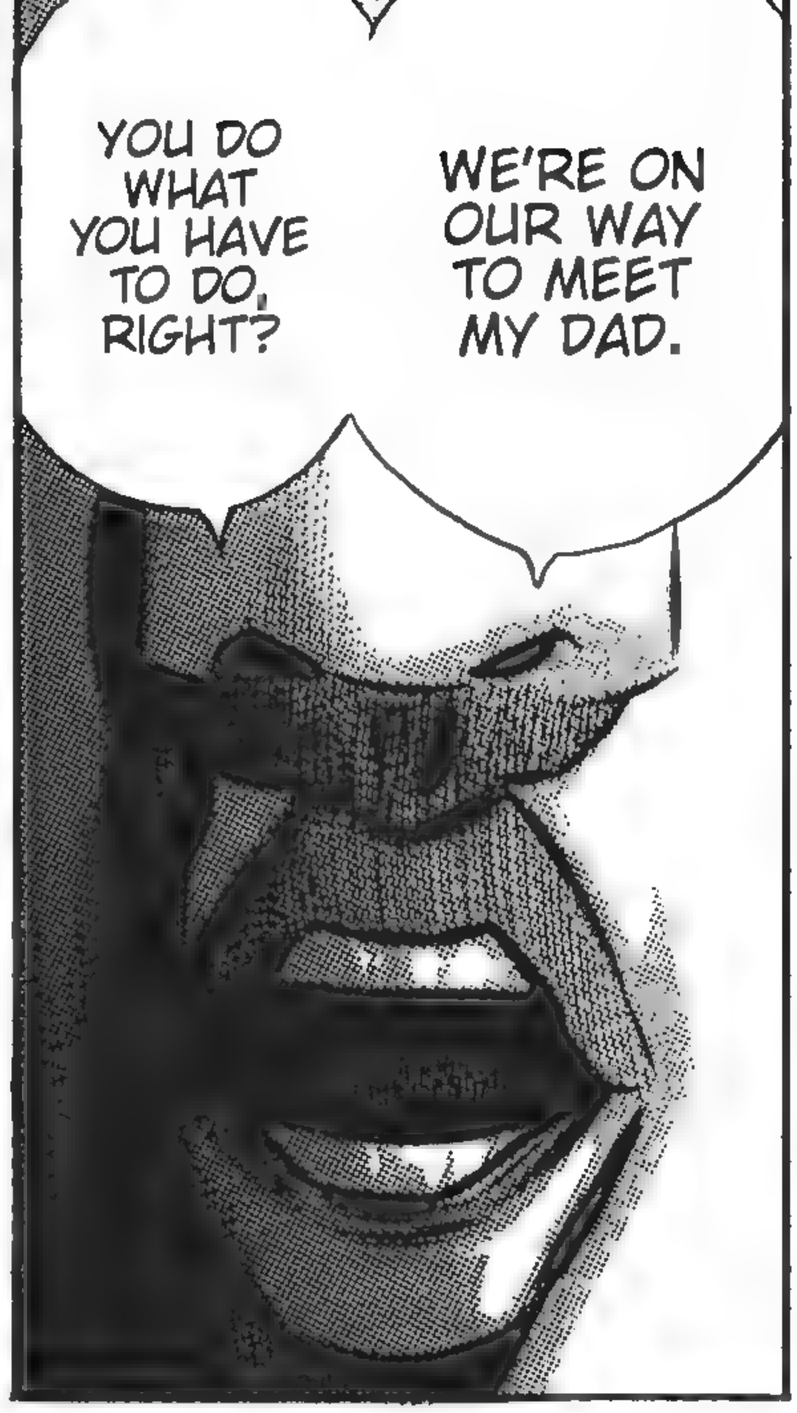
WHAT'D YOU EXPECT?



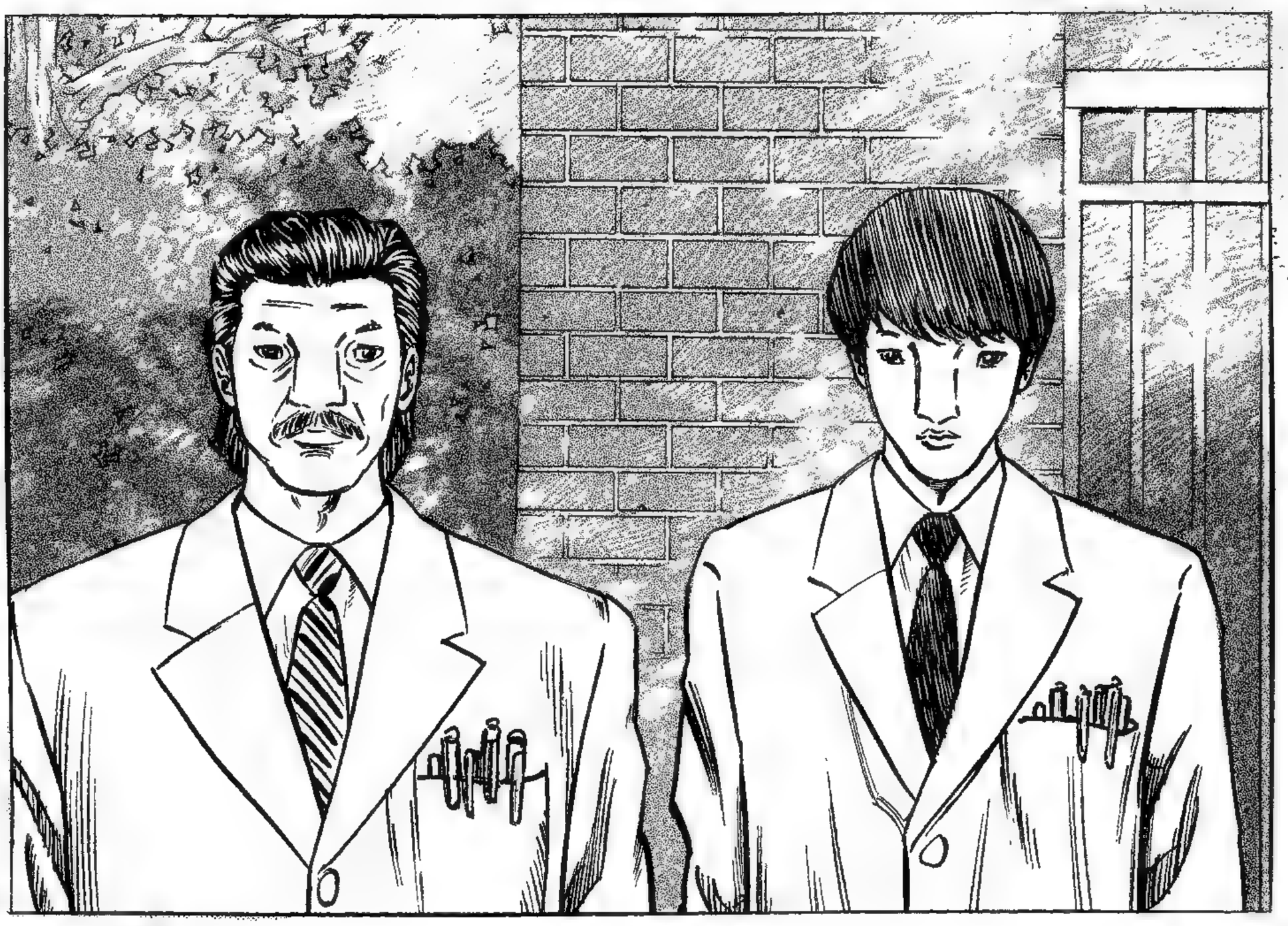


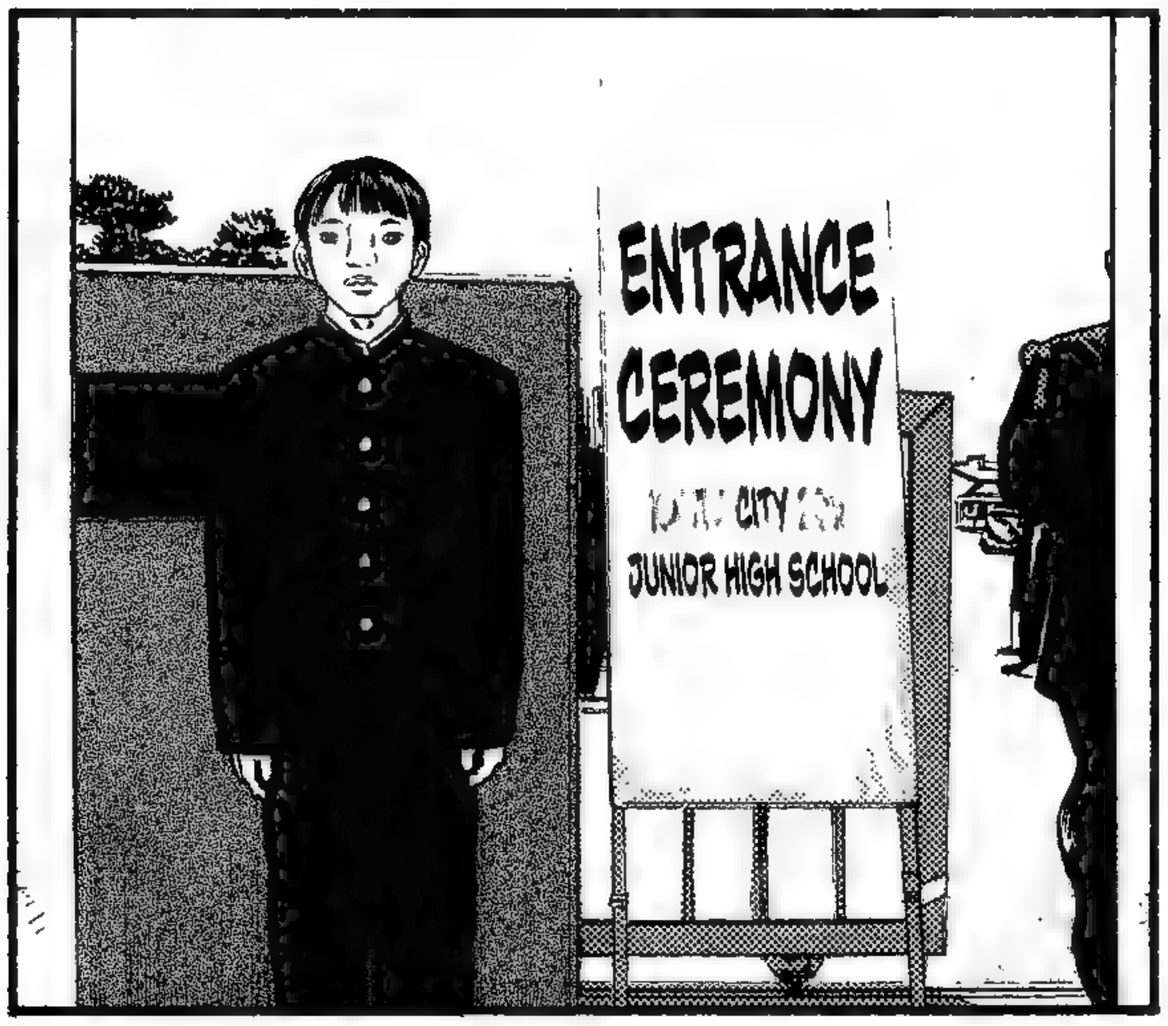
YOU DO WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO, RIGHT?

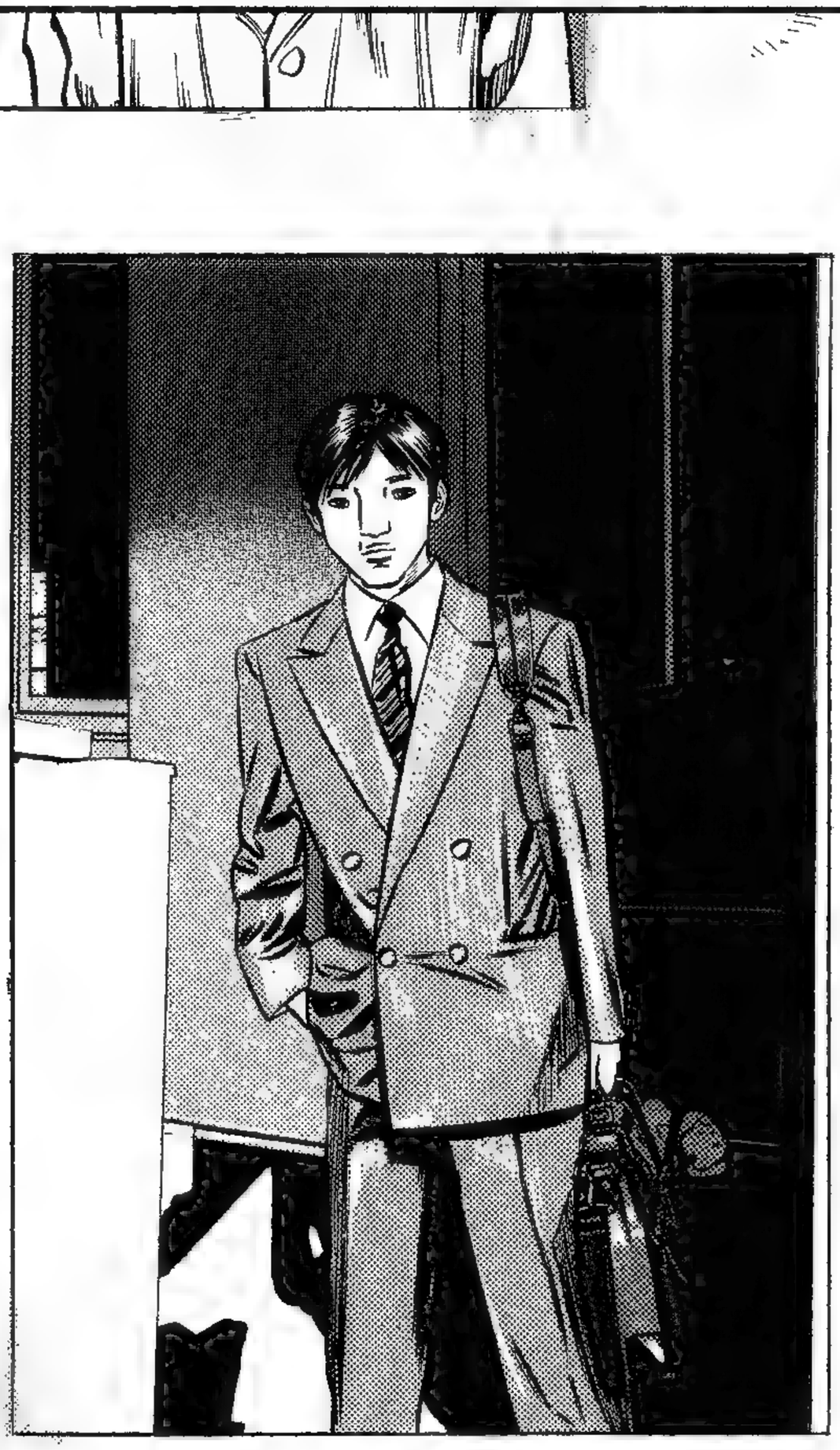
WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO MEET MY DAD.








ENTRANCE
CEREMONY
JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL





FLIP

FLIP

FLIP

FLIP

FLIP

.....

WHO IS IT?

NOK NOK

FWIP

!

IT'S ME, MANABU.

KA-CHAK

SIT DOWN, SON.

HOW ARE YOU FEELING?

HEY, DAD.

SORRY, DAD. I'M A BIT PRESSED FOR TIME TODAY. CAN'T STAY THAT LONG.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

SIT.

Atlas of Skills: Cosmetic Plastic Surgery
Atlas of Skill Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
01
LIPOSUCTION AND INJECTION
Masanari Ichida
DVD
ドス
TWWMP
ドス
FWUMP
IT SEEMS *THIS* WAS ON YOUR BOOKSHELF.
!
MOM WAS SNOOPING AROUND AGAIN, HUH?
COSM
Atlas of Skills: Cosmetic Plastic Surgery
Atlas of Skill Aesthetic Plastic Surgery
01
LIPOSUCTION AND INJECTION
Masanari Ichida
DVD
SON, WHY DO YOU HAVE BOOKS ABOUT *COSMETIC SURGERY*, OF ALL THINGS?

.....

.....

I THOUGHT STUDYING A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS WOULD HELP ROUND OUT MY KNOWLEDGE.

SON...AMONG THE VARIOUS TYPES OF HEAD TRAUMA ARE ACUTE SUBDURAL HEMATOMA AND ACUTE EPIDURAL HEMATOMA.

.....

TELL ME, HOW DOES ONE DISTINGUISH BETWEEN THESE TWO TYPES OF HEMATOMA ON A CT SCAN?

MANABU ...

I DIDN'T BUY YOU AN APARTMENT FOR YOU TO STUDY *PLASTIC SURGERY.*

BOOKS LIKE THIS ARE A WASTE OF TIME.

I WANTED TO GIVE YOU SPACE TO FOCUS ON YOUR STUDIES, BUT IF YOU'RE NOT DEVOTED TO NEUROSCIENCE...

WE'RE A *NEURO-SCIENCE* CLINIC.

!

WHEREAS IN AN ACUTE EPIDURAL HEMATOMA, THE LESION HAS A MORE CONVEX SHAPE.

IT'S THE SHAPE OF THE LESION. IN AN ACUTE SUBDURAL HEMATOMA, IT'S CRESCENT-SHAPED...

GLANCE...

!

WHAT'S THE APPEAL OF PLASTIC SURGERY, ANYWAY?

I KNOW THE BRAIN AND VISCERA ARE VITAL PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY...

THEY'RE HUMAN TOO.

BUT THE OUTSIDE--THE PARTS THAT MAKE CONTACT WITH THE AIR AND OTHERS' GAZES--

.....

IS HUMAN TOO.

THE OUTER LAYER...

!

MANABU, ANY CHARLATAN WHO WOULD USE A SCALPEL ON A PERFECTLY HEALTHY HUMAN BEING HAS NO RIGHT TO CALL THEMSELVES A DOCTOR.

TP TP TP TP TP TP

I DON'T CARE WHAT MAKES A DOCTOR A *DOCTOR*, DAD. I'M CURIOUS ABOUT *PEOPLE*.

YES, SIR!

DIDN'T YOU SAY YOU WANTED SOME UL-TRASOUND EQUIPMENT?

COME TO THINK OF IT, MANABU ...

AND HEY, DAD...

ISN'T IT A LITTLE DEPRESSING IN HERE?

BRING ME A PAMPHLET THAT HAS THE ONE YOU WANT IN IT NEXT TIME.

!

I WILL! THANK YOU!

?!

GUPPY ?

A...

I BET A GUPPY WOULD SPRUCE THE PLACE UP. MAYBE I'LL BRING YOU ONE NEXT TIME! ♪

GRID ナニソレ…

……

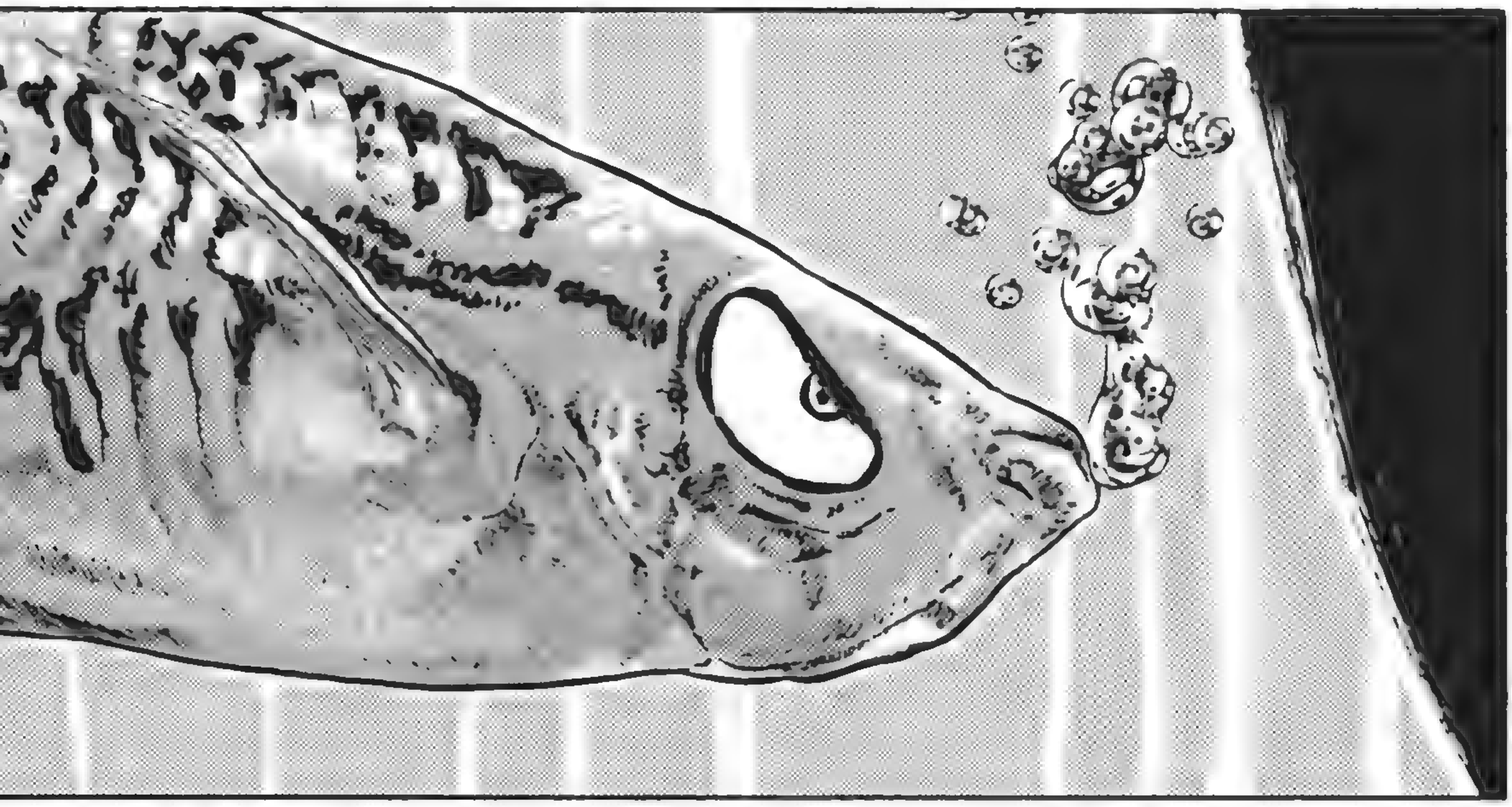
THEY'RE SUPER PRETTY, YOU KNOW.

YEAH!

YOU'LL LOVE IT, I PROMISE!
♪









IS THIS A LIE TOO?

IF EVEN MY REFLEC-TION IS A LIE...

HOW AM I EVER SUPPOSED TO FIND THE REAL ME?

WHERE IS THAT REFLECTED?

KA-CHK

!

THANKS FOR WAITING FOR ME.

RIGHT.

AH.

I...I GUESS WE SHOULD HEAD OUT.

ブロロロ

.....

SO, YOUR DAD...

HE'S SICK?

!

IT'S A PRETTY COMMON TROPE IN MOVIES.

"WITH HIS FATHER ON HIS DEATHBED, A YOUNG MAN CONFRONTS HIS CHILDHOOD TRAUMA."

SO, IN *OURS*...

I GUESS YOU'D BE THE HERO. A SAVIOR WITH THE POWER OF SIGHT.

!

WELL, NAKOSHI-SAN?

HOW ARE YOU GOING TO SAVE ME?

THIS ISN'T ABOUT YOUR DAD.

SORRY TO RUIN THE DRAMA, BUT MY FATHER ISN'T ACTUALLY DYING. HE'S JUST A BIT BUMPED UP FROM A CAR ACCIDENT.

I TOLD YOU BEFORE, DIDN'T I?

!

.....

THE THING THAT CONNECTS US ISN'T OUR FATHERS.

WELL... BUT THAT'S...

I DON'T EVEN HAVE A FATHER.

HE DIED WHEN I WAS VERY YOUNG.

WELL, THAT JUST FURTHER PROVES MY POINT!

IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, IT'S ONLY NATURAL YOU'D BE *EXTRA* SENSITIVE TO THE TOPIC!

W...

.....

BUT... THAT'S THE MOST...

YOU SURE SEEM DETERMINED TO MAKE THIS ABOUT FATHERS.

?

!

THAT'S PROOF IN ITSELF THAT YOUR DADDY ISSUES AREN'T THE MAIN PROBLEM.

SO...YOU'RE STUDYING COSMETIC SURGERY, HUH?

YEAH.

!

AND WHAT I FINALLY CAME TO WAS...

IN MY QUEST TO RESEARCH HUMANITY, I'VE STUDIED ALL SORTS OF THINGS! I STARTED WITH PSYCHOLOGY AND NEURO-PHYSIOLOGY.

THEN I TRIED MORE SPECIFIC CLINICAL FIELDS, LIKE PSYCHOANALYSIS AND SLEEP THERAPY. THEN I BRANCHED OUT INTO THE STRANGE AND UNUSUAL. QIGONG, THE PARANORMAL, NEW RELIGIONS, QUESTIONABLE FOLK REMEDIES--YOU NAME IT.

THE *OUTSIDE.*

FLESH...

SKIN...

BODY...

!

IN ESSENCE, HOW A PERSON *LOOKS.*

!

IT'S MERELY ONE TOPIC AMONG MYRIAD OTHERS.

IT'S NOT LIKE COSMETIC SURGERY IS SPECIAL, THOUGH.

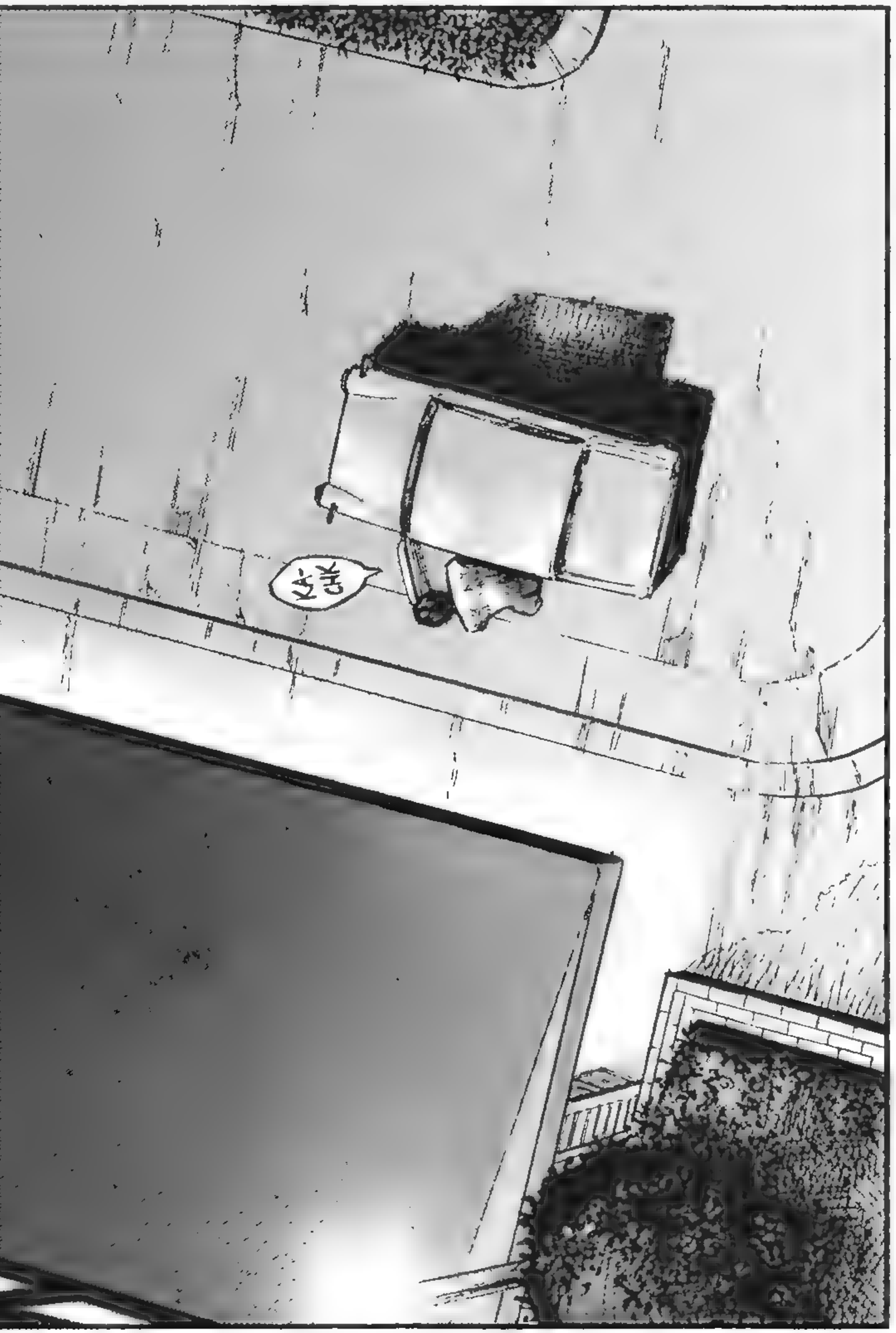
!

SO, IS THAT WHY YOU CHOSE ME?

.....

MAYBE IT IS! WHO'S TO SAY?

HA HA!


눈물


끄르르르



ハァ…
ハァ…
ハァ…

SHHHHH

NAENSHEE

SHHHHH

NAENSHEE

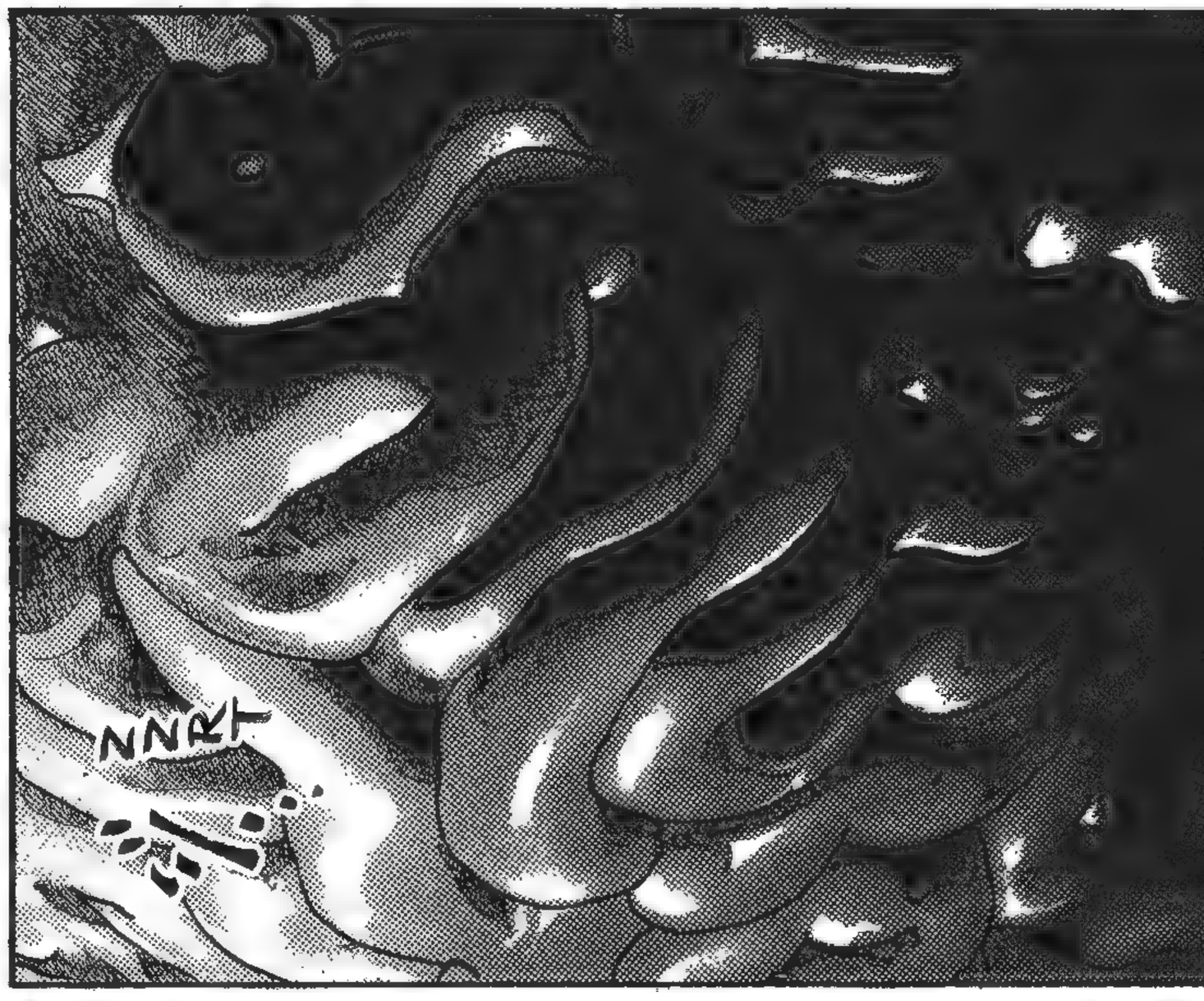
SURE IS CALMIN', WATCHIN' THE WAVES.

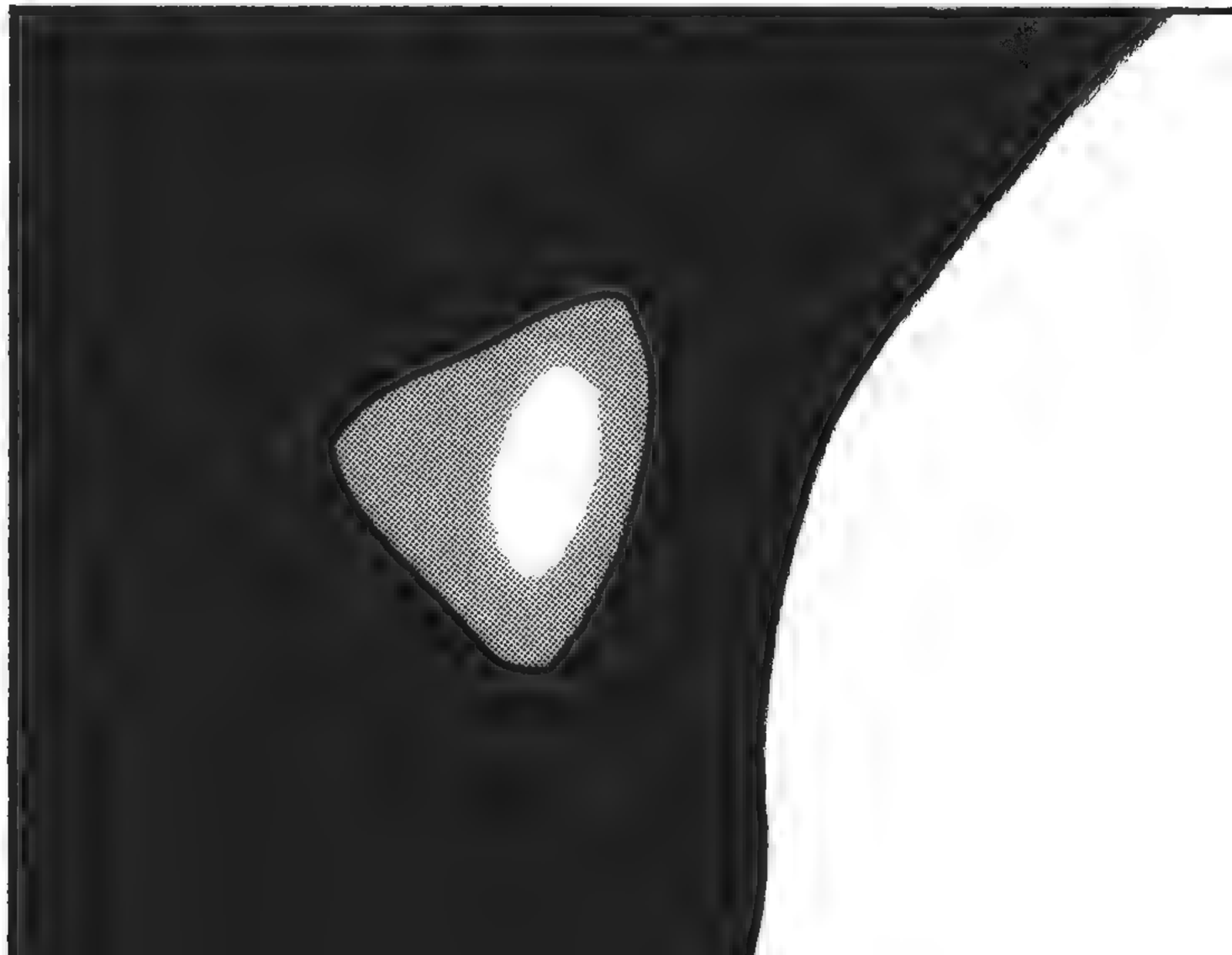
THEY CAN'T EVEN REFLECT ME.

ZA-ZSHHH

ZA-ZSHHH








NNCH
SU



NNRT

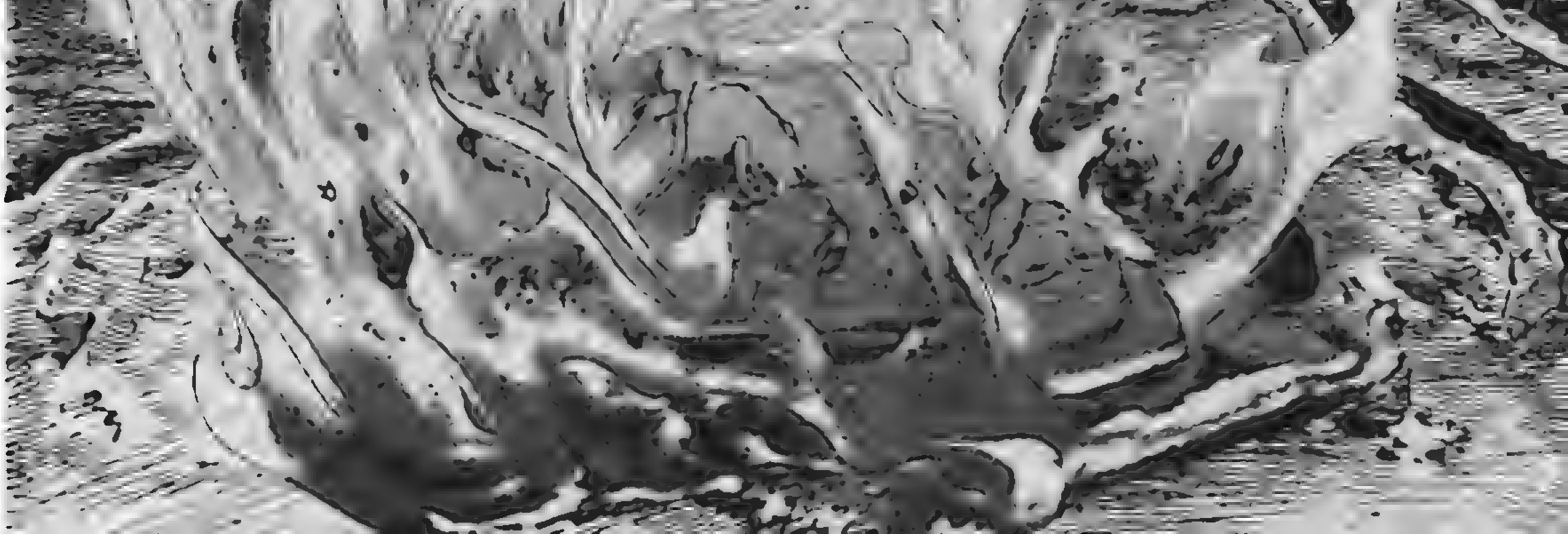
Ei...

NNRT

Ei...









MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

AAAA!!

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

CHANGED MY FAAAACE ...♪

MUTTER

MUTTER

AN' THEIR APATHY WAS GONE, NO TRACE...
♪

THEY LOOK 'N' LOOK, I'M FIXED BY THEIR GAZES...
♫

GOT MONEY 'N' HONEYS, A LIFE OF SILK AND LACES...
♪♫

MARISA
090-

SO WHY...

WHY DOES IT NEVER FEEL REAL?

♫

I FELT NOTHING AT ALL, MIGHT AS WELL KISS A WALL...

WHEN ME AND SOME GIRL SEALED THE DEAL...

IT NEVER FELT... REAL.

♫

THEY DON'T FEEL REAL. ♫

IF YOU PULL FINANCIAL STRINGS ... ♪

Buy EUR 134.24

Sell USD 1.24 61

Buy USD 1.24 66

Buy GBP .37

Sell GBP .24

Buy GBP .28

OTHER PEOPLE BECOME WORTH-LESS THINGS...

USE BRAND NAMES TO SHOW HER WHO'S BOSS... ♪

IT DOES NOT FEEL REAL. ♫

SURE, IT WORKS, BUT NO WARMTH COMES ACROSS ...

IT LACKS THE HEFT OF REALITY.

THE STENCH OF REALITY.

THE HEAT OF REALITY.

MY REALITY... ISN'T...

REAL!


HOOF-HOOF


OH.
NOW I
GET IT.

'CAUSE HE'S LIVIN' A LIE!

ITO FEELS THE SAME WAY, DON'T HE?

HIS SHAPE... IT'S WRONG.

BUT IN REVERSE.

BUT WE AIN'T IDENTICAL. WE'RE MIRROR IMAGES! THE SAME...

HE'S LYIN' BY...*NOT* CHANGIN'...?

I LIED BY CHANGIN' MY FORM.

MAYBE HE *CAN'T* CHANGE, AND *THAT'S* WHY HIS LIFE DON'T FEEL REAL.

!

FWIP

ITO

RUSTLE

HE DON'T EVEN KNOW *WHAT* FORM HE'S SUPPOSED T'HAVE YET!





STARE!!

STARE!!

STARE

GLP
GLP
GLP



BIP

PIRO RO RO RO RO

!

OH, NAKOSHI-SAN. HEY.

HELLO?

DINNER...

WHAT, LIKE... *NOW?*

HUH?!


AT THE HOTEL?

TONIGHT'S ABOUT THE *OUTER* LAYER, AFTER ALL.

FIGURED I'D DRESS UP.

YIKES. WHAT'S WITH THE SUIT? YOU'RE IN A TIE AND EVERYTHING.

UNLIKE YOU.

BESIDES, YOU'RE ONE TO TALK. WHAT'S THAT GETUP? IT'S SO...

.....?

TOO BAD. TONIGHT'S A BLACK-TIE AFFAIR.

C'MON. LET'S GET YOU CHANGED.

I *ALWAYS* DRESS LIKE THIS!

UNLIKE ME? BUT...

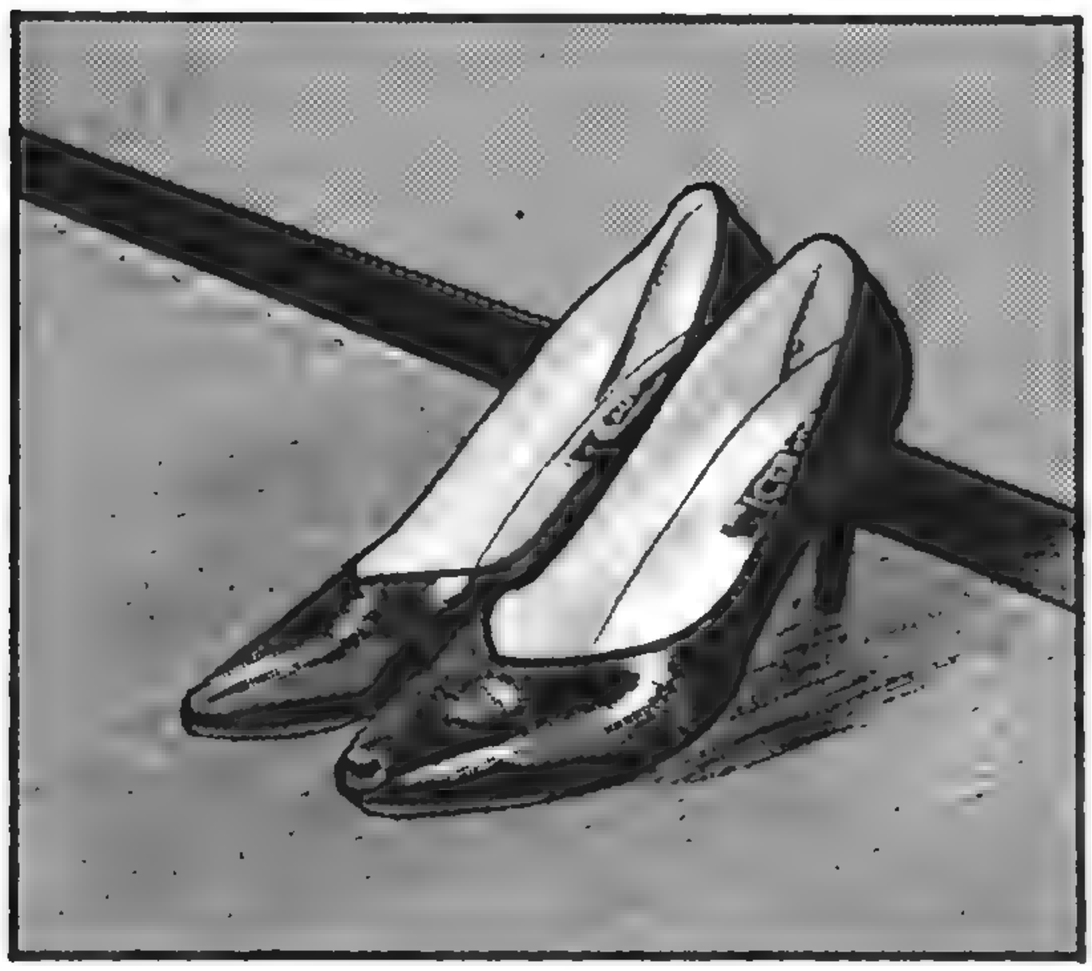
?

GA-CHAK ...

777











!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS.

NAKOSHI-SAN...

TO DRESS ME IN DRAG?

YOU REALLY BROUGHT ME UP HERE...

I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO MAKE YOU **BEAUTIFUL.**

NOW, NOW. I WOULDN'T CALL IT SOMETHING AS VULGAR AS "DRAG."

NOR AM I *REMOTELY* FEMININE!

I. AM *NOT.* *GAY.*

I KNOW.

NAKOSHI-SAN, I ALREADY TOLD YOU...

JUST TRUST ME.

I SWEAR, I'M NOT GONNA ATTACK YOU OR ANYTHING.

WHAT ?!

I SPENT EVERY YEN I HAD ON THIS.

PLEASE... JUST HUMOR ME TONIGHT.

SURE DID.

YOU SPENT *ALL OF IT?!*

I GAVE YOU FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND YEN *TODAY!*

FOUR HUNDRED THOUSAND GOES BY IN A BLINK.

BETWEEN GETTING THE ROOM, BUYING THE CLOTHES, AND SO ON...

777

.....?

STEP

WHAT THE HELL IS GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD?

NAKOSHI-SAN...

DON'T ASK SHIT YOU KNOW THE ANSWER TO.

.....

STARE...

FINE. I ASSUME YOU'RE TRYING TO GET A RISE OUT OF ME TO CHANGE MY HOMUNCULUS.

THEY'RE JUST YOUR OWN SELFISH DELUSIONS.

BUT THESE HOMUNCULI YOU'RE SEEING...

WHAT DOES THE GUPPY MEAN?

GLP GLP GLP

.....

?

AND THIS TANK...

NOK

NOK

!

GLRP...

YUP. ROCK HARD.

FWUP

FWUP

FWUP

FWUP

!

I KNEW IT. IT'S REVERSED!

THE GUPPY IS HIS TRUE SELF.

I CHANGED FROM THE OUTSIDE FIRST, BUT HE... HE HAS TO CHANGE FROM THE INSIDE OUT.

HOMUNCULI REPRESENT *MENTAL* DISTORTIONS. EMOTIONAL PAIN.

BE-SIDES ...

DON'T BE STUPID.

IT WON'T DO SQUAT. NOTHING YOU DO TO THE PHYSICAL BODY WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

MAKEUP, WOMEN'S CLOTHING ...

.....?

IF YOU WANT TO SCREW WITH SOMEONE'S HOMUNCULUS...

CHANGING THEIR SHAPE IS A MUCH FASTER WAY TO GET THERE THAN CHANGING THEIR MIND.

.....

WON'T MY HOMUNCULUS TRANSFER TO YOU, NAKOSHI-SAN?

BUT IF YOU DO THAT...

WHA ?!

GNG

YOU'RE SUCH A PAIN IN THE ASS!

GNG

RAAUGH !!

CHILL!

WH-WH-WHOA!

I'M NOT SOME LEFT-BRAINED WISE GUY LIKE YOU. I CAN'T ANALYZE FOR SHIT.

YOU'RE NOT GONNA TRY AND KISS ME AGAIN, ARE YOU?

ALL I CAN DO IS FEEL WITH MY BODY.

!

.....

AH. LIKE WITH YOUR CAR, AND THAT HAUNTED BUILDING.

THAT'S RIGHT.

BUT I'M SICK OF FEELING OBJECTS. IT'S...

ABOUT TIME I STARTED FEELING HUMANITY.

LEAN

W... WAIT A SECOND. UH...





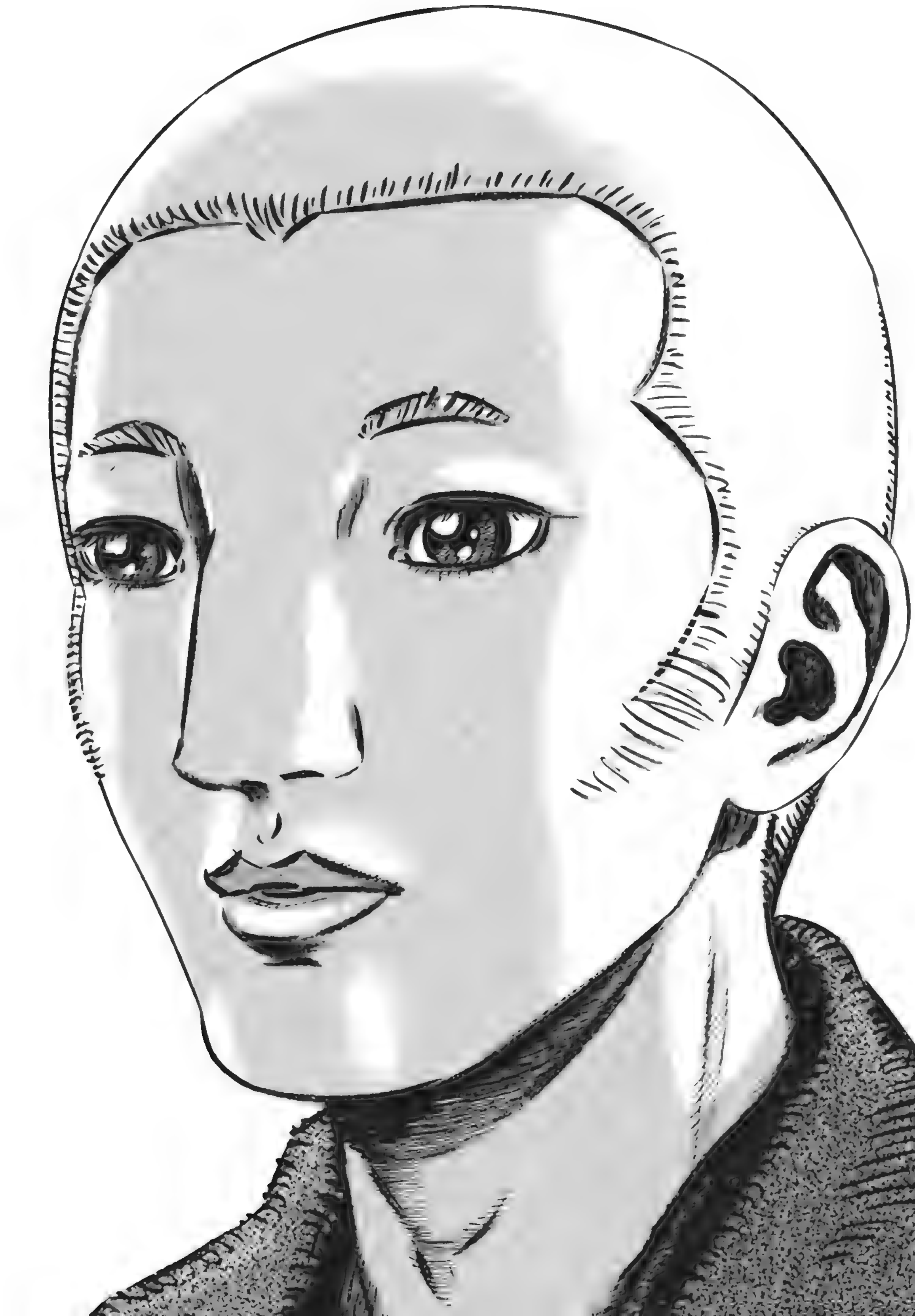

SERI-
OUSLY?
EUGH……

GLUP!

GLP GLP GLP ...

GLUP

GLP GLP GLP...



GLP
GLP
GLP

?!

S...SO, UH... WHAT'S WITH THE HUG?

WHOA!

WHP

I FINALLY GOT A **SOLID IMAGE** OF YOU.

SHWF

DO WE REALLY HAVE TO DO THIS...?

I FEEL LIKE I LOST A BET.

SKRIK...

LIKE, THIS IS BORDERLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT, Y'KNOW?


UGH.....
GOD, THIS IS SO STUPID.

QUIT YOUR BELLY-ACHING AND FACE ME UPRIGHT.

UH... W-WELL, YEAH...

I AM! I'M LOOKING RIGHT AT YOU!

.....?

I MEANT, LIKE... EMOTION-ALLY.

BUT...

CREAK

UH...!

GLP GLP GLP...

D...

STARE!!!!!

IT'S SO TINY I CAN BARELY SEE IT...

DUDE, BACK UP.

?!

GRAB

STARE
...

THERE.
IT'S EASIER
TO SEE
WHEN THEY
MATCH.

WAIT~~~...

SHP

SHLK

FWFF

SO FAR, THIS IS JUST LIKE LAST TIME...

THE LIPS ARE MATCHED UP NOW.

QUIVER

DO YOU EVEN KNOW *HOW* TO USE MAKEUP?

I'M STARTING WITH THE PART I KNOW BEST.

SO SHUSH.

IT'S LIKE ICING ON A CAKE!

LIPSTICK GOES ON *LAST!*

THE PART YOU *KNOW...?*

BUT I USED TO DO THIS FOR WOMEN ALL THE TIME. SO SIT BACK AND TRUST ME.

YUP. I'VE NEVER PUT IT ON A GUY BEFORE...

!

FWFF

FWFF

SKRIK

BLUE? NO...IT'S MORE LIGHT PURPLE.

STARE

HM?

SHWF

SHWF

SHWF

SHF

SHF

SHF

SHP

SHP

SHP

SWSH

SWSH

SWSH

SQUEEEEZE

FOR THE GAPS...

A LITTLE FOUNDATION SHOULD DO THE TRICK.

SWIP

SWIP

SWIP

HE DOESN'T HAVE MUCH FACIAL HAIR, SO A THIN LAYER SHOULD BE FINE.

SWIP

SWIP

SWIP

SWIP

SWIP

GOOD THING YOU'RE SO YOUNG.

THE FOUNDATION'S GOING ON SMOOTH AS SILK.

WHAT-EVER...



UP NEXT IS...

NAKOSHI-SAN.

THIS SUCKER, I GUESS.

GRAB

BUT YOU'VE PUT MAKEUP ON *YOURSELF* BEFORE, HAVEN'T YOU?

IT'S JUST A HUNCH...

HM?

!

NOT WOMEN'S MAKEUP, THOUGH.

OF COURSE I HAVE.

RIGHT?

YOU HAVE...

TRIED IT.

MAKEUP'S A FUNNY THING. SOME PEOPLE USE IT TO DECEIVE THEMSELVES, WHILE OTHERS USE IT TO LIVE THEIR LIVES MORE AUTHENTICALLY.

AFTER ALL...

!

I SEE.

HEH HEH HEH HEH...

YOU HAD TO **WORK** FOR IT, *HM?*

SO LYING TO YOURSELF DIDN'T COME EASILY.

HEH HEH HEH.

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN TRULY HORRID TO LOOK AT.

.....

WHP

SHUT UP!

FWUMP

GO GET CHANGED. NOW!

YES.

YOU'RE *SERIOUSLY* GONNA MAKE ME WEAR THAT THING?!

EUGHHHH

UGHHHHHH

MUTTER
MUTTER
MUTTER

STUPID, DELUSIONAL SON OF A...

"HOMUN-CULUS" MY ASS.

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

SERIOUSLY? I'VE GOTTA WEAR *THIS*? UGH...

!

!

!



!

FINE. I'M IN THE STUPID DRESS. HAPPY?

HILARIOUS, RIGHT?

SO? HOW IS IT?

WOW.

YOU LOOK JUST HOW YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO.

PERFECT.

PRESS

OH, SHIT!

I FORGOT!

MY LEGS FEEL ALL BREEZY... IT'S GROSS.

W-
WAIT...

I FORGOT TO DEAL WITH YOUR LEG HAIR.

H-H-HANDS OFF, MAN!

GIMME YOUR LEG.

WHAT ?!

YOU SHAVE YOUR LEGS?

HUH?

REALLY? I HAD NO IDEA.

MALE-ONLY BEAUTY SALONS ARE SUPER COMMON, YOU KNOW!

SO WHAT? TONS OF GUYS DO IT!

OH...

!

NOW I GET IT.

WHIP

PARDON ...?

NOW, LET'S GO TO DINNER.

GREAT.

SHWIP

SAY WHAT?!

WE'VE GOT A TABLE FOR TWO WAITING UPSTAIRS.

C'MON. LET'S EAT.

C'MON. JUST HUMOR ME FOR A BIT.

I ALREADY PAID FOR IT.

DRESSED LIKE *THIS*?!

YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!!

ITO... PLEASE.

I CAN'T GO OUT IN PUBLIC LIKE THIS! IT'S EMBARRASSING!

YOU *MUST* UNDERSTAND!

I'M A DISGRACE ...

ACTUALLY, YOU TURNED OUT BETTER THAN I THOUGHT.

EVERYONE WILL STARE.

BUT...I LOOK LIKE A CHEAP DRAG QUEEN!

I WON'T GO SO FAR AS TO SAY YOU *DON'T* LOOK LIKE A MAN...

BUT I WOULDN'T SAY YOU DON'T LOOK LIKE A WOMAN, EITHER.

WHAT DOES *THAT* MEAN?

GO SEE FOR YOURSELF.

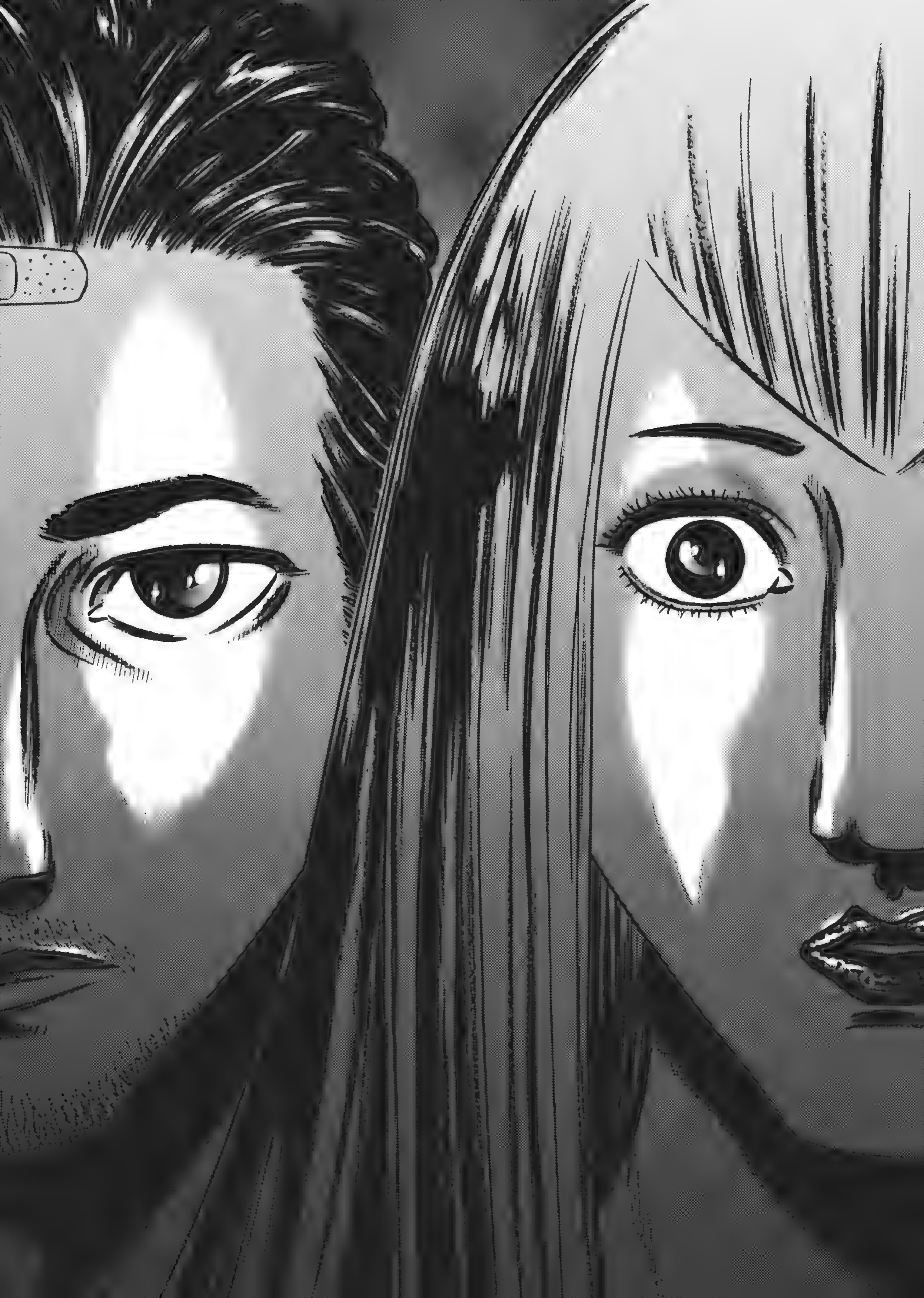
.....

FINE.









YOU ARE ME.

I JUST LOOK LIKE A DUDE IN A DRESS.

L... LOOK! SEE?

IF THE *ME* I SEE IN FRONT OF ME CAN FIND THEIR TRUE FORM...

THEN I SHOULD BE ABLE TO BE MY TRUE SELF TOO.

JUST ONE GLASS OF WINE.

COME WITH ME. OKAY?

ST... STUPID HEELS...

KLAK KLAK

BOOM BOOM

!

EVERYONE HERE IS STARING AT ME LIKE I'M A FREAK!

SEE? I KNEW IT.

EASY FOR YOU TO SAY.

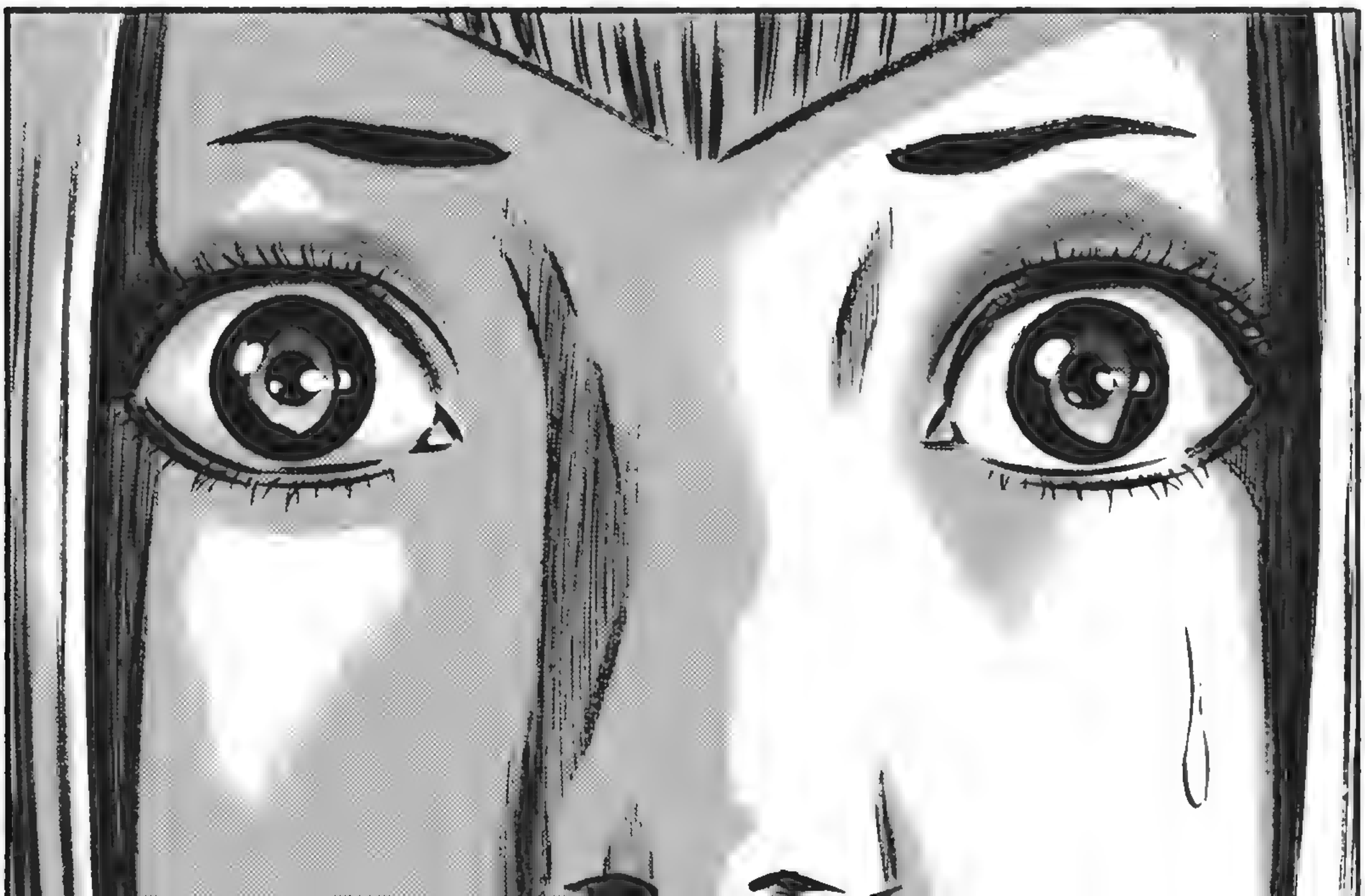
JUST MAKE LIKE YOU BELONG, AND YOU'LL BE FINE.

WELL, YEAH. YOU'RE ACTING LIKE A CRIMINAL.

GLANCE

GLANCE





WHO CARES WHAT THEY THINK?

THEY CAN TELL! THEY'RE ALL TRYING TO FIGURE OUT IF I'M A GUY...

SEEEE ?!

SURE, MAYBE SOME PEOPLE WILL GAWK AND WONDER ABOUT YOUR GENDER...

BUT NONE OF THOSE PEARL-CLUTCHERS CAN DOUBT THAT YOU'RE BEING *YOU.*

!

!

I'VE NEVER CARED THIS MUCH ABOUT BEING STARED AT.

GOD. THIS FEELS SO WEIRD...

THAT'S PROBABLY FOR THE BEST, ACTUALLY.

GLANCE

≠0

≠0

GLANCE

SHEEEESH...

?

I THINK YOU'VE BEEN IGNORING WHAT OTHERS THINK OF YOU FOR TOO LONG.

OWWW!

AGH!

TWIST

WHUMP

OOPS!

WHUMP

BLUSH

?

HE!

IS SHE ...?

!

SHF...

GRIP

TUG

COME ON.
LET'S GO.

ИЗ-ЗА

ИН...
ИМ...

UGHmmm

LET GO OF ME, MAN!

WHOA!

WHP

KLAK

KLAK

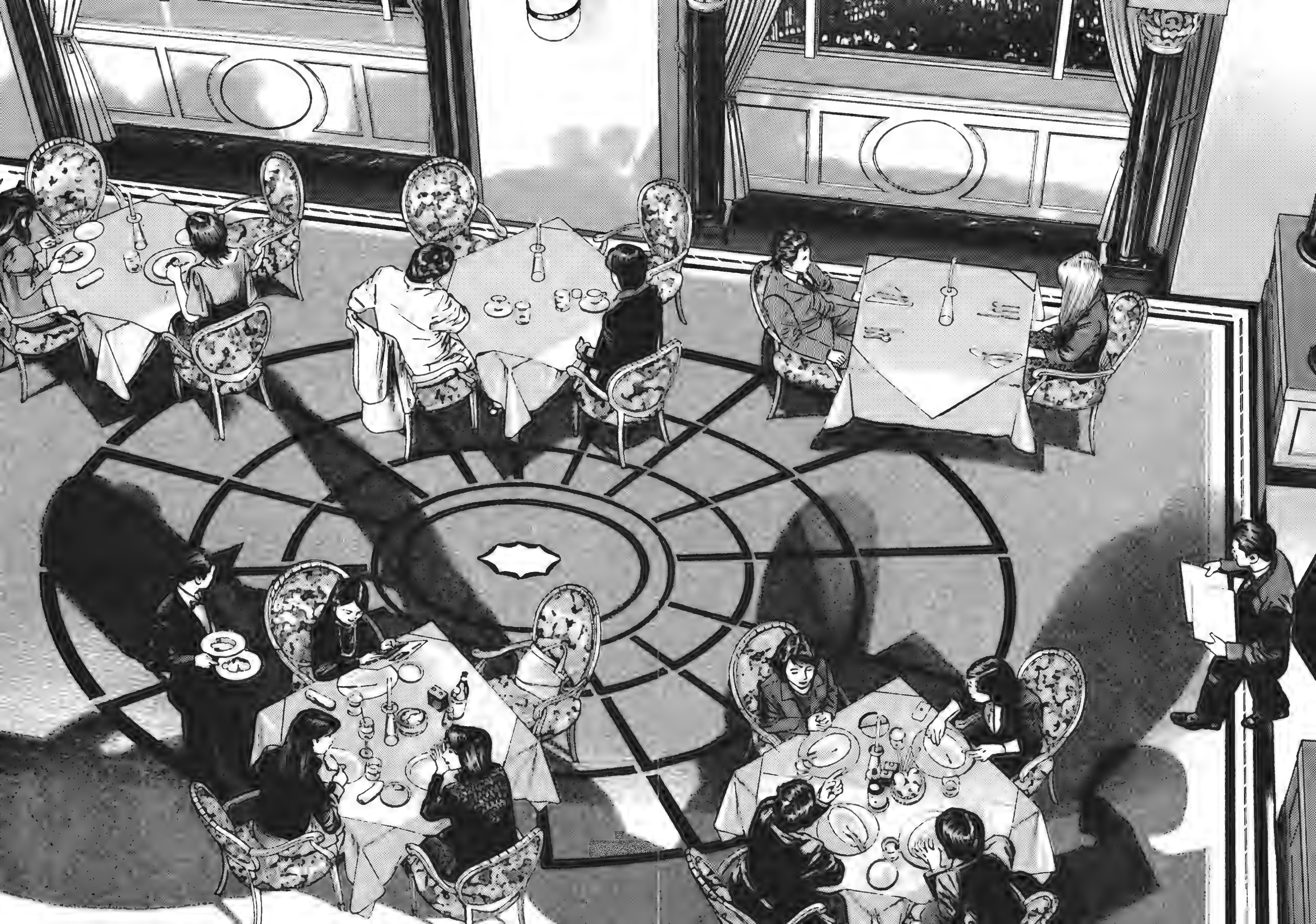
KLAK

KLAK

……?

UGH.

YOU'RE SUCH AN IDIOT.



FLINCH ヒ"ッ"

WELCOME BACK, NAKOSHI-SAMA.

EVENING.

!

IF I MAY...

IS THIS THE WINE YOU RE-QUESTED?

THAT'S THE ONE.

GLUP GLUP GLUP GLUP GLUP

.....

STARE

HUH ?!

HEY, COME ON!

.....

AT LEAST TOAST WITH ME BEFORE YOU DIVE IN.

TIIING

.....

CHEERS.

SWIG!

カタン

KTAK

NICE.

HOOH

OH...

PA

SKRIK

SKRIK

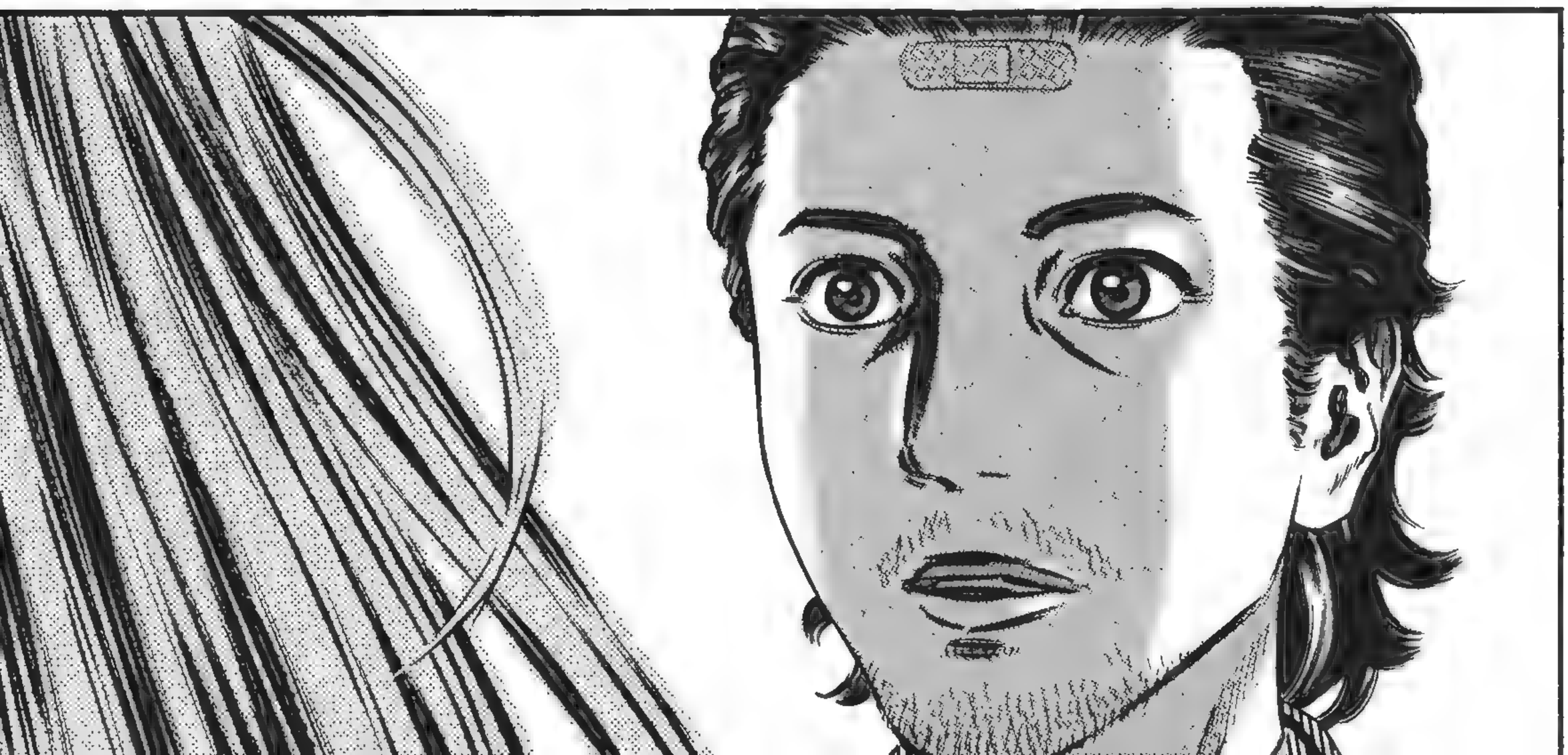
SHF

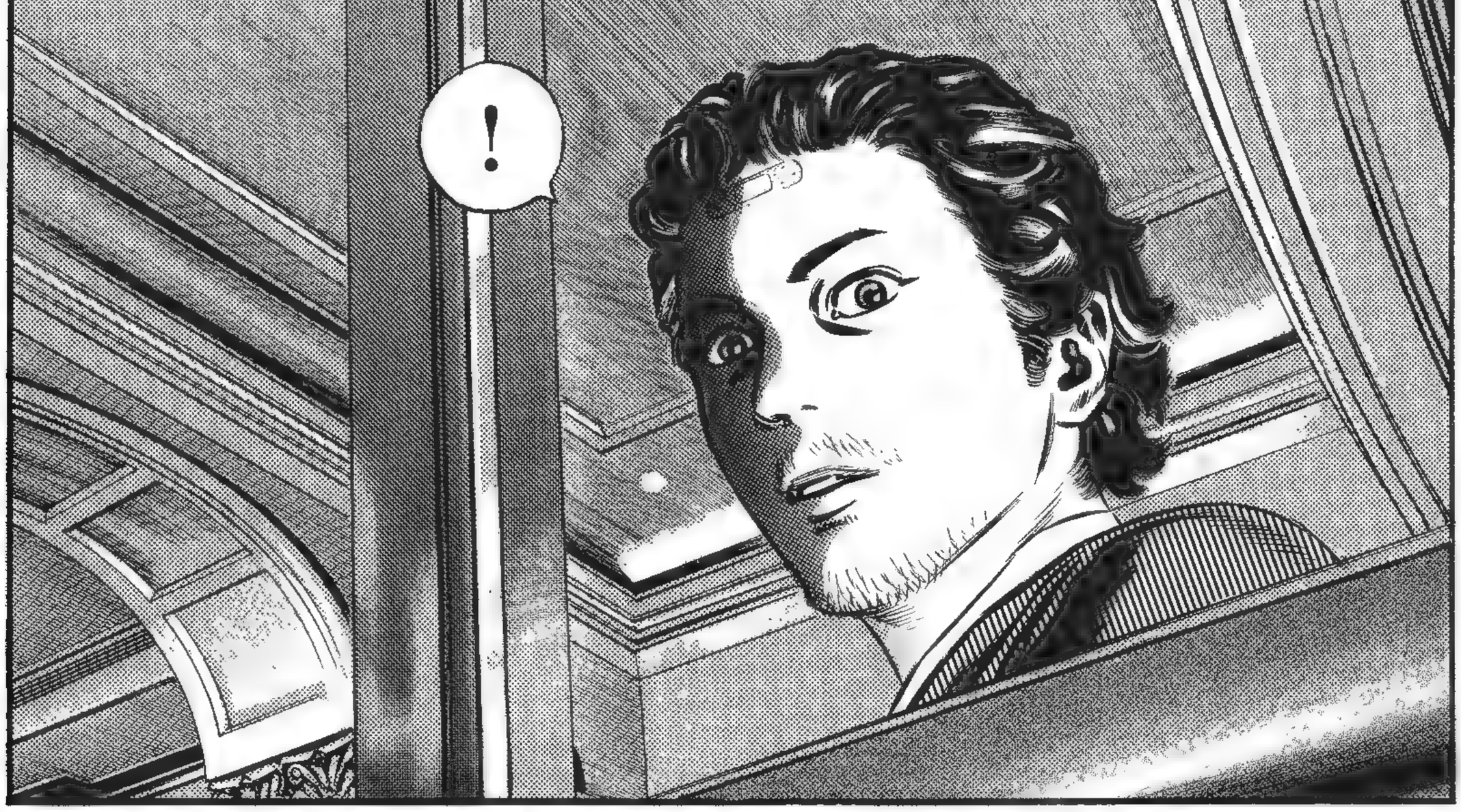
H

……?

STARE!!







!

THERE IT IS. THE PLACE WHERE IT ALL STARTED.

OR TO RETURN TO THE DAZZLING LIGHTS OF THE HOTEL...

UNABLE TO TAKE MY PLACE IN THAT PITCH-BLACK PARK...

I WAS BIDING MY TIME IN THAT VERY CAR...

WHEN YOU FIRST CALLED OUT TO ME.

Parking spot Ticket 9-20

STARE

THEN I GOT THIS HOLE IN MY SKULL, AND THANKS TO THAT...

MY LIFE TURNED UPSIDE DOWN ALL OVER AGAIN.

STARE

HUH?

I KNEW IT. SPLIT ENDS.

WHAT ?!

WHY'D YOU HAVE TO PICK *THIS* WIG?

NAKOSHI-*SAAAN!*

……

LOOK AT THIS THING!

THESE ENDS ARE INSANE!

NO WONDER EVERYONE KEEPS STARING AT ME!

COULDN'T YOU HAVE FOUND A WIG IN BETTER SHAPE?!

.....

STARE...

YOU HAVE NO TASTE...

GOD...

FIDGET

FIDGET

HM?

ON AVOIDING OTHERS' EYES?

WHY ARE YOU SO SET...

AND NOW I'VE GOT ALL THESE SPLIT ENDS, AND--

WELL... WHAT DO YOU EXPECT?! YOU PUT ME IN A DRESS!

.....!

NO ONE'S LOOKING DOWN ON YOU, EITHER.

NO ONE'S LOOKING AT YOUR SPLIT ENDS.

AND IF THEY DO...LOOK BACK.

THE EYES ARE THE ONLY PASSAGEWAY WE HAVE TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD.

NEVER, *EVER* LOOK AWAY.

!

ARE YOU TALKING TO ME OR YOURSELF?

NAKOSHI-SAN...

YOU CAN BE A REAL HYPOCRITE, CAN'T YOU?

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S ALWAYS AVOIDING EYE CONTACT, AFTER ALL.

LOOM

!

FLINCH

ALLOW ME.

SHWF

.....

SHF

GLUP GLUP GLUP

.....!

IS THE TASTE TO YOUR LIKING?

UH...

UM...

IT'S DELICIOUS.

I'M HAPPY TO HEAR THAT!

SO GOOD! ♪

THE FOOD WAS FANTASTIC.

!

!

WRONG DIRECTION, NAKOSHI-SAN!

IT'S OVER HERE.

?

YOUR REFLECTION. REMEMBER?

IF YOU WANT TO SEE YOUR MIRROR IMAGE...

YOU'LL FIND IT IN *THIS* FACE. THE ONE YOU COVERED IN MAKEUP.

.....



YOU SAID THAT'D MAKE YOU HONEST, RIGHT?

.....!

SO BE HONEST! WHEN YOU LOOK IN *THIS* MIRROR...

WHAT EXACTLY DO YOU SEE?

……

ZAYOSIH-SAAAN.

.....

!

YOU'RE BEING A HYPOCRITE AGAIN!

YOU JUST TOLD ME NOT TO AVOID EYE CONTACT, REMEMBER?

.....

!

WHY THE RETICENCE? DO YOU SEE YOUR OWN FACE BEFORE SURGERY OR SOMETHING?

.....

WHY *DID* YOU GET THAT SURGERY?

TELL ME, NAKOSHI-SAN...

WHAT'S THE FULL STORY?

PARDON?

I... CAN'T ...

HUH?

I CAN'T REMEM-BER.

I CAN'T...

REMEMBER MY OWN FACE...

WAIT, REALLY ?!

.....

YOU'VE GOTTA HAVE PICTURES, RIGHT?

NO. I THREW THEM ALL AWAY.

WELL, BUT...

YEAH
...

YOU *LITERALLY* CAN'T REMEMBER YOUR ORIGINAL FACE?

SO IT'S... NOT A JOKE?

EVEN WHEN I THINK ABOUT MY CHILDHOOD, ALL I CAN PICTURE IS A YOUNGER VERSION OF *THIS* FACE, SUPERIMPOSED OVER THE REAL ONE...

GOD, THAT'S RICH! ♪

.....

YOU MUST HAVE GONE THROUGH SOMETHING *TRULY* TRAUMATIC!

NAKOSHI-SAN...

I MEAN, IF IT WAS BAD ENOUGH THAT YOU'VE REPRESSED MEMORIES OF YOUR OWN *FACE*...

IT MUST'VE BEEN A REAL DOOZY. WHAT WAS IT?

I REALLY DON'T KNOW.

GOODNESS, HUMAN BEINGS REALLY ARE FASCINATING!

OR PERHAPS IT'S JUST *YOU* WHO'S FASCINATING.

.....

!

RIGHT?

IN ANY CASE, YOU'VE LEARNED YOUR LESSON.

ALL BECAUSE YOU THOUGHT I'D BECOME A MIRROR FOR YOURSELF.

THEN WENT SO FAR AS TO DRESS ME UP AS A WOMAN AND TAKE ME OUT TO DINNER.

Inside is full to the brim with water.

See-through container shaped like father (sometimes looks invisible)

RUSTLE

HH...

Inside is full to the brim with water.

See-through container shaped like father (sometimes looks invisible)

YOU SAW MY SUPPOSED "HOMUNCULUS" ...

YET HERE YOU ARE, NO CLOSER TO THE TRUTH THAN BEFORE.

?!

.....

AT THE END OF THE DAY, THESE HOMUNCULI THAT YOU HALLUCINATE ARE **ENTIRELY ONE-SIDED.**

IT'S HARDLY SURPRIS-ING.

THEY'RE *YOUR* DELU-SIONS. NOTHING TO DO WITH THE PERSON YOU PROJECT THEM ON.

YOU AND I...

ARE *NOTHING* ALIKE!

Inside is full to the brim with water.

SO THIS GUY...

.....

YOU'RE JUST SOME DERANGED HOMELESS GUY WHO LIVES IN HIS CAR, SEEING STRESS-INDUCED HALLUCINATIONS.

YOU?

ISN'T...

NOPE. THAT HOMUNCULUS IS ENTIRELY *YOUR* PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTORTIONS.

THEN ...

WHAT ...?

TH...

THEN...

SORRY, DID YOU SAY SOMETHING?

HM ?!

PARDON?

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THE GUPPY?

WHY...

DO YOU HAVE A PET GUPPY?

WHY WOULD YOU BRING *THAT* UP?

HUH?!

THAT ONE'S MY FIRST.

NO. NEVER.

YOU MUST'VE HAD ONE IN YOUR CHILDHOOD...

NO, I MEAN...

RIGHT?!

MUTTER
MUTTER

BUT...I SURE AS HELL NEVER HAD NO PET FISH! SO WHAT COULD IT POSSIBLY...?

YOU... YOU'VE GOTTA BE LYING! OR...

LYING ...?

!

WHAT ARE YOU EVEN TALKING ABOUT?

.....

HAVE TO DO WITH ANY OF THIS?

WHAT DO FISH...

SKRT

SKRT

SKRT

SKRT

SHF

INSIDE YOUR HOMUN-CULUS'S TANK.

THERE'S A GUPPY...

GLANCE

WHAT THE HELL...

IS THIS?

YOU'VE NEVER MENTIONED IT BEFORE.

LIKE I SAID! THERE'S A GUPPY...

A SECRET?

I WAS KIND OF KEEPING IT A SECRET.

W...WELL, YEAH.

S...

YOU REALLY...

SORRY ...

DO NOTHING BUT LIE, HUH?

KNOCK KNOCK! ANYONE THERE?!

NOK

NOK

NOK

NOK

IT'S INSIDE OF YOUR HOMUNCU--

WELL, OF COURSE!

YOU KEEP TALKING AS IF IT'S GOT SOMETHING TO DO WITH ME.

AND THIS GUPPY...

IT'S JUST A FUCKING *FISH!* AM I NOT ALLOWED TO HAVE A FISH?!!

THAT SHIT...

IS *IN!* *YOUR!* *HEAD!* NOT MINE!

EVERY *BIT* OF IT...

NOK

NOK

NOK

WHOA, CALM DOWN!

WH...

NO, I...

WHAT ...?

YOU'RE JUST USING MY NEW PET TO INVENT MORE STUPID LIES!!

BESIDES, DON'T THINK I DON'T KNOW WHAT THIS IS!

WHAT YOU SEE HAS *NOTHING* TO DO WITH ME.

YOUR HOMUNCULI ARE *YOUR* THING.

GET IT THROUGH YOUR THICK SKULL.

I'M CERTAIN I'VE NEVER HAD A...

BUT I...

BWAM

SO, LOGICALLY SPEAKING, YOUR GUPPY'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH ME EITHER!!

OH?

HUH?

ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T JUST FORGET IT?

NAKOSHI-SAN...

PMF

?

YOU *DID* HAVE A PET GUPPY AS A CHILD!

DON'T YOU SEE?

?!

YOU FORGOT!

THAT'S IT!

EUREKA!

NO WAY...

SOMETHING HAPPENED TO IT.

AND THEN...

JUST LIKE YOU FORGOT YOUR REAL FACE.

YOU'VE FORGOTTEN YOUR POOR FISHY FRIEND.

!!

.....!

YOU RE-PRESSED IT! EXPUNGED IT FROM YOUR MEMORY!

IT CAN'T BE...

.....

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD TURN YOUR GAZE *INWARD* FOR A CHANGE, NAKOSHI-SAN.

SWING

AND LEARNED TO FACE YOURSELF HEAD ON.

STOP PROJECTING YOUR ISSUES ONTO THE REST OF US.

IT'S HIGH TIME YOU GREW UP...

NGLP

NGLP

NGLP

NGLP

I HAD...

A GUPPY...?

PARDON.

HOOH~~~

SLURP

Inside is full to the brim with water.

See-through container shaped like father (sometimes looks visible)

STARE

Inside is full to the brim with water.

...through container shaped like father (sometimes looks invisible)

BRRRP!

NOOOW I GET IT.

?

THAT'S WHY YOU DIDN'T TELL ME YOU SAW A GUPPY.

IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.

!!

IS OF *YOUR* HOMUNCULUS.

AFTER ALL, THIS PICTURE...

.....?

AND WITH THAT FINAL KEYWORD--"GUPPY"--IT'S ALL FALLEN INTO PLACE.

GLARE

A SYMBOL OF YOUR ADMIRATION OF PHYSICAL BEAUTY.

TO YOU, GUPPIES REPRESENT YOUR DESIRE TO BE HANDSOME ON THE OUTSIDE.

ブクブクブクブク

RIGHT, MR. FORMER UGGO?

YOU WANTED TO BE JUST LIKE YOUR LITTLE FISHY, SO YOU WENT UNDER THE KNIFE...

FEEL AFTER-WARDS?

SO, HOW DID YOU...

DID THE WORLD BECOME A DIFFERENT PLACE?

SH...

SHUT...
UP...

OH, BUT IT *MUST* HAVE CHANGED THE WORLD! RIGHT?

YOU MUST HAVE BEEN SURROUNDED BY ALL *SORTS* OF GLAMOUR.

MONEY, WOMEN, MATERIAL GOODS...

JUST AS A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN AND AN UGLY ONE...

ARE TREATED COMPLETELY DIFFERENTLY ...

.....

CHANGE EVERYTHING.

ONE'S LOOKS...

SO YOU THREW ALL YOUR FAKE LUXURIES AWAY AND WOUND UP TRAPPED BETWEEN THE PARK AND THE HOTEL. AND EVEN *THEN*, YOU FAILED TO FIND YOURSELF!

BUT IN THAT LIE-SOAKED WORLD, YOU NEVER FELT FULLY ALIVE.

AND YOU SUCK YOUR THUMB AND GO DOWN FOR A WIDDLE NAPSY. ♪

CRY, "IF ONWY I COULD GO BACK TO THE OWD DAYS"...

SO NOW YOU CURL UP LIKE A FETUS IN YOUR CAR...

.....

THE ONE BEFORE THE SURGERY, *DID* FEEL ALIVE.

MAYBE THE OLD YOU...

IN WHICH CASE...

HELP!

!

JUST LIKE WITH YOUR FISH...

See through container shaped like father sometimes looks

BUT ALAS.

YOU CAN'T REMEMBER THAT "YOU"...

AND YOUR OLD FACE...

OR WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM.

.....

I WONDER WHAT IT WAS...

THE AWFUL TRAUMA THAT BEFELL YOU BEFORE THE SURGERY.

!!

GULP

SWING

BRR

RP!

DNK

!

BRRR

B...

B... BULLSHIT. WHAT COULD *YOU* KNOW?

DO EXCUSE ME.

BRR

RP!

HEH HEH HEH.

NOK

NOK

Inside is full to the brim with water.

See through container like spoon shape either makes looks like

IT'S QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY! ♪

.....?!

BEFORE THE SURGERY ...

?

YOU HAD QUITE THE STRICT UPBRINGING, DIDN'T YOU, HON?

IT MADE YOU FEEL AS INVISIBLE AS THIS GLASS.

YOUR HOME LIFE WAS DIF-FICULT. YOU COULDN'T BE YOURSELF.

th

con

Sh

IT'S GETTING... GIRLIER?

HIS SPEECH ...

THAT *MUST* BE IT! ♪

YEAH...

WAS THE WORST PART. YOUR DAD.

AS YOU CAN TELL BY THE FACE...

AND *THIS*...

TAK

TAK

TAK

HUH ...?

D...

YOUR FATHER IS A SELFISH PRICK.

AS THIS GLASS TANK SYMBOLIZES, YOUR FATHER TRIED TO FORCE YOU TO CONFORM TO HIS *OWN* IMAGE.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU I DON'T HAVE A FATHER ?!

.....

MM-HMM! ♪

YOUR LONGING FOR BEAUTY!

YOUR DESIRE FOR CHANGE!

SYMBOL-IZES YOUR TRUE SELF!

AND THE GUPPY SWIMMING AROUND INSIDE YOU...

.....

I KNEW IT.

I NEVER HAD A FISH AFTER ALL!

HEH HEH.

BUT YOU'VE LONG FORGOTTEN THE SIGNIFICANCE THIS PRETTY LITTLE FISH HOLDS FOR YOU.

FWSHH...

SOMETHING SO TRAUMATIC YOU'VE REPRESSED IT.

WHATEVER YOUR PROBLEM IS, IT MUST HAVE TO DO WITH GUPPIES AND YOUR FATHER.

OOPS!

EXCUSE ME.

BRRR P!

LOCKED IT AWAY SOMEHOW ...?

HE DID SOME-THING TO IT.

MUTTER

MUTTER

MUTTER

YEAH...

THIS FATHER OF YOURS...

THREW IT AWAY?

OR PERHAPS HE KILLED IT?

MURMUR

MURMUR

MURMUR

YOUR DAD...

MAYBE ...

ITO, WHAT ARE YOU...?

.....

AWW, POOR NAKOSHI-SAN!

DID YOUR WIDDLE FISHY GET MURDERED...

BY MEAN, MEAN DADDY?

YOU'RE JUST TALKING ABOUT YOUR-SELF!

ITO ...

PRESS

YES, THAT'S IT!

THAT *MUST* BE IT!

HEH HEH HEH.

HE LOOKED INVISIBLE BEFORE.

BUT NOW, SITTING ACROSS FROM ME... THERE'S A REAL HUMAN.

A REAL ...

suu...

?!

THIS SMELL ...

!

FWAH

WHERE IS IT COMING FROM?

HM ...?

DOWN THERE?

GOD, THIS WIG'S SO RATTY...

UH!

RUSTLE RUSTLE

MAYBE I COULD FIX THEM?

THESE DARN ENDS.

!

IS IT COMING FROM HIS FEET?

!

SNEF!

SNEF!

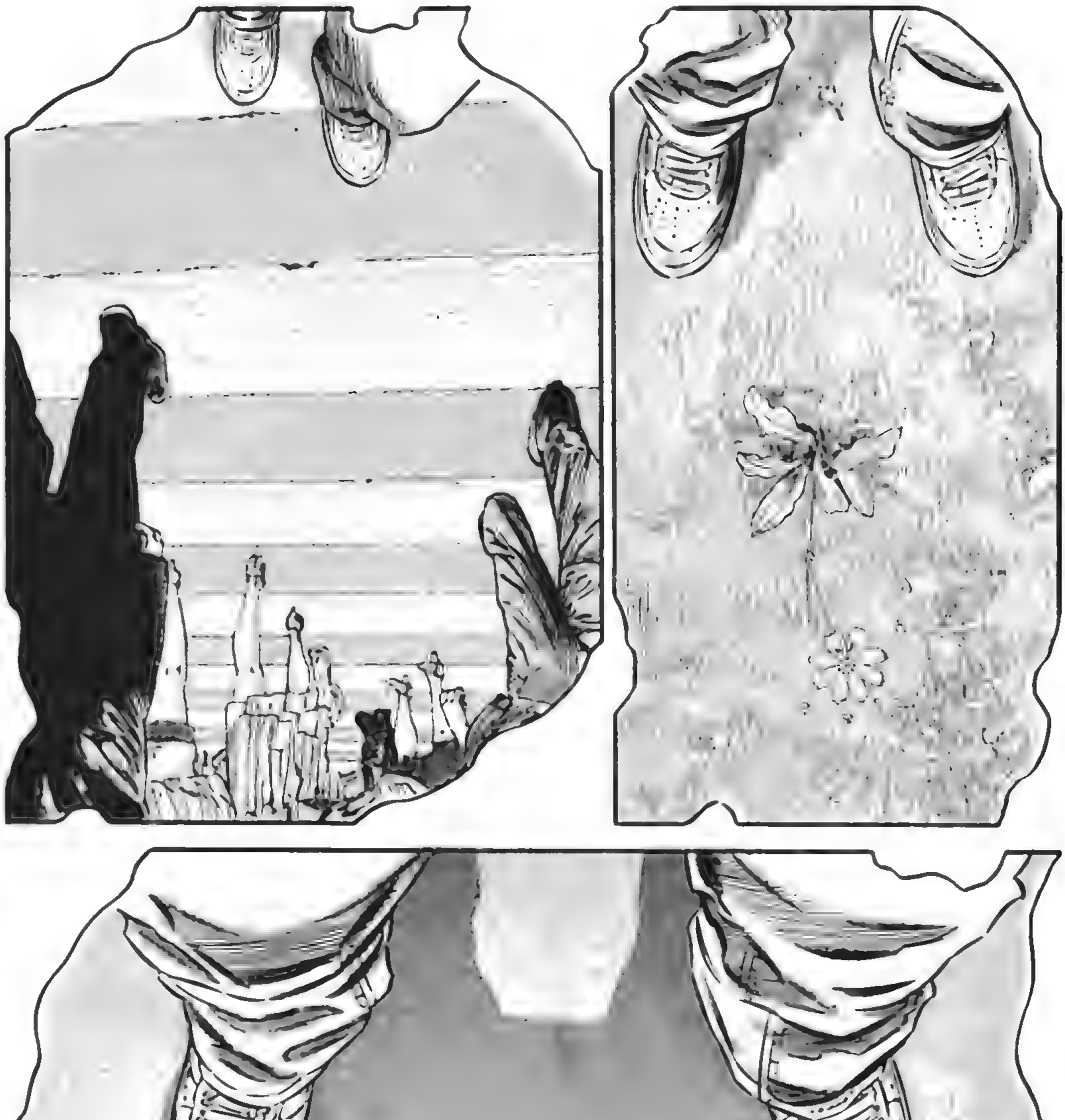
PWAH

PWAH

IT STINKS !!

BZT







FEET...

THAT'S RIGHT.

!

.....

MY FEET HAVE ...

COM-PARED TO HIS...

THEY'VE LOST ALL SENSE OF REALITY.

NO SMELL. NO WEIGHT. NO HEAT.

.....!

SKSH

SKSH

FSSS

FSSS

THAT FELT REAL.

BUT MY FEET USED TO BE THE ONLY PART OF ME...








WHOA!
N...NAKOSHI-SAN? WHAT'S THE MATTER?



.....?

HELLOOO? NAKOSHI-SAAAN?

SMIRK

SMIRK

AND NOW YOU'RE SO EMBARRASSED YOU WANT TO CRAWL INTO A PIT?

OH MY. I WAS RIGHT, WASN'T I?

WHAT?

SHUT YER TRAP.

SLAM...

HUH?

GETTIN' ALL FULLA YERSELF JUST CUZ YER FEET STINK.

NAKO-CHAN, SWEETIE ...

ARE YOU OKAY?

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO GREAT JUST 'CAUSE YER FEET GOT A SMELL, WEIGHT, AN' HEAT TO 'EM. WELL, WHO CARES?

MY GOSH!

THE POOR THING'S LOST IT!

YOU AIN'T BETTER THAN ME JUST 'CAUSE YOU FEEL **ALIVE!**

To be continued in *Homunculus* Volume 7.

● *Trepanation is an extremely dangerous procedure. Please do not try at home.*

Homunculus



SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

Homunculus

Volume 5-6

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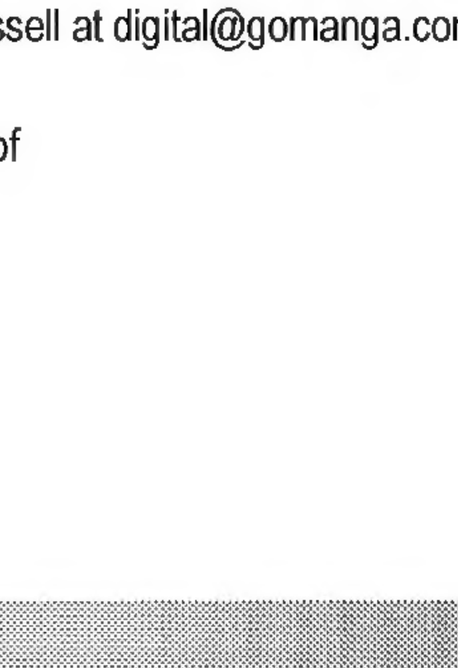
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READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



The Truth Is Out There

Nakoshi faced the robot yakuza and the high school girl made of symbols head on—and in doing so, rid them of their monstrous traits. But now those twisted attributes have transferred to Nakoshi! To get closer to the truth about himself and his new, disturbing reality, he confronts the homunculus of the med student who started it all...Ito.

From the creator of *Ichi the Killer* and *Voyeur*, the hit supernatural horror tale that inspired a live-action film on Netflix.



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